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ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING, CONTRACTING & DEVELOPING

October 2025



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How manufacturer diversification leads to unlimited design possibilities – P19



BSR COMPLIANCE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED

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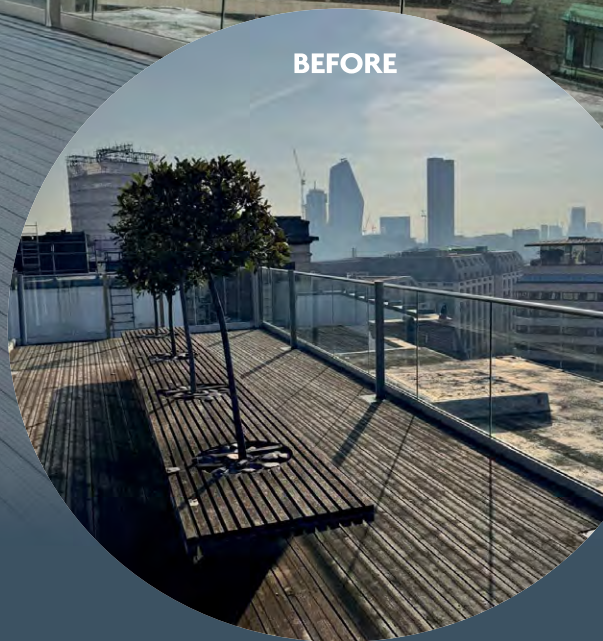
The Building Safety Regulator has raised the bar. For specifiers, the path to approval is tougher than ever - **but with AliDeck, you don't walk it alone.**

We've successfully guided projects through BSR requirements, providing the technical detail, documentation, and expertise needed to get approvals over the line.

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JQ1

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BSR Compliance: Why the Right Partner Makes All the Difference

Since the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) came into force, the way balconies are designed and specified has changed dramatically. For architects, specifiers, and developers, getting a project over the line is no longer straightforward. Every decision is under the spotlight, every material must be proven, and every detail has to be backed up with evidence.

We know how challenging this can feel. Projects stall, paperwork piles up, and deadlines get tighter. That's why at AliDeck, we've made it our role to be more than just a supplier. We're here as a partner – helping to guide projects through the process so they don't just meet the new standards, but move forward with confidence.

Helping Projects Navigate the BSR

The BSR asks for a huge amount of detail, from fire test results and CAD drawings to full compliance packs. Pulling this together can be daunting, especially when time is short.

Our technical team works directly with specifiers to make it easier. We prepare the documents, drawings, and evidence needed so nothing gets missed. This level of support has already helped several projects gain BSR approval – showing that with the right expertise behind you, the process doesn't have to be a roadblock.

Support That Goes Beyond Products

Balcony systems are about much more than the boards and balustrades you see on site. They're safety-critical parts

of a building – and they need to be right first time. That's why we stay involved throughout the project, not just at the point of supply.

- *Design support:* We sit down with specifiers early to shape compliant, practical solutions that work in the real world.
- *Installation training:* We provide hands-on training so contractors can fit our systems correctly, avoiding mistakes and delays.
- *CPD sessions:* For architects, our CPDs cut through the complexity of the regulations, turning technical requirements into clear, practical steps.

This joined-up approach means fewer surprises, smoother progress, and safer outcomes.

Proudly Made in Britain

One of the things that sets AliDeck apart is our supply chain. All of our aluminium is extruded here in the UK and our systems are Made in Britain certified. By keeping production local, we remove the risks and delays that come with overseas supply.

We also powder-coat everything in-house, giving us full control over quality. And with our new Qualicoat accreditation, specifiers can be confident that our finishes are built to last – tested and proven for performance in even the toughest environments

Setting a Higher Standard

Our focus has always been on raising standards in balcony design. The BSR has only reinforced that mission.

Today, it's about offering specifiers more than just compliant products – it's about providing reassurance, guidance, and proof at every stage.

When you work with AliDeck, you're choosing a partner who:

- Has already helped projects secure BSR approval.
- Offers design input, CPDs, and installation training to support the whole team.
- Manufactures here in Britain with complete quality control.
- Delivers in-house, Qualicoat-accredited powder coating for lasting performance.

Looking Ahead

The BSR has raised the bar for everyone, but it doesn't need to hold projects back. With the right partner, compliance becomes something you can manage, not something you fear.

At AliDeck, we're proud to be that partner. By combining proven balcony systems with UK manufacturing, accredited finishes, and real project support, we're helping specifiers move forward with clarity and confidence.

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JQ2

welcome... on the cover

...to the October issue of ABC&D magazine...

The first of this month's project features comes courtesy of Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, detailing the practice's design for the Paradise office development in Lambeth. The six-floor building delivers 35% lower embodied carbon, locks away over 1,800 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere – equivalent to the carbon emissions of building 24 new homes – and has been designed with a whole-life approach in mind. See more on page 06.

Our second project feature on page 12 looks at an asymmetric cedar-clad extension to a three-bed terraced house in south west London. Designed by Foregeworks, the additional space reflects the owners' love of Scandinavian design and maximises natural light.

October's Hot Topic is a literal one on page 16, tackling the issue of overheating in buildings following the UK's warmest summer on record; Richard Aylen takes a look at the new embodied carbon measurements required by the DfE for 200 schools being built over the next five years on page 32; Bisca discusses the shifting role of staircases in architecture on page 38; and on page 40, Jim White examines what specifiers need to know about the new EN fire door rules.

Laura Walker explores some of the latest trends in the flooring market on page 50; Joanne Roberts looks at designing public realm paving with beauty and practicality in mind on page 56; and on page 60, HiilIFE highlights how leisure venues are using technology in architecture to redefine the customer experience and explains why the right technology partner matters in modern leisure spaces.

...from all at ABC&D...

Crittall Windows' Managing Director, Russell Ager, explores how diversification in steel window design and manufacturing is helping architects meet rising expectations. The company's ability to supply windows visually indistinguishable from originals while meeting today's standards is a direct result of product development.

See more on page 19.



in the next issue

**drainage, plumbing
& water saving solutions**
**roofing, cladding, insulation
& structural systems**
**heating, ventilation
& damp proofing**
**kitchens, bathrooms
& washrooms**
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managing editor – claire.young@korumedia.co.uk (01527 407248)

production manager – tracy.duffy@korumedia.co.uk

national sales manager – davina.glover@korumedia.co.uk (01527 407249)

circulation department – korucirculation@c-cms.com

business director – Carl Hearnden – chearden@datateam.co.uk

media director – Paul Ryder

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An aerial photograph showing a dense urban landscape in Lambeth, London. In the foreground, multiple railway tracks run parallel to each other, curving slightly. To the right of the tracks, there are various buildings, including a prominent yellow brick building. In the background, the London skyline is visible under a clear blue sky, with several tall skyscrapers standing out.

a model for the future of regenerative *cities*

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (FCBStudios) has completed the UK's lowest embodied carbon mass timber office development, in the heart of Lambeth for Bywater Properties, and it's not just another sustainable office – it's a milestone...

This mass timber, fully demountable structure is a powerful demonstration of how simplicity, circularity, and carbon-conscious design can define the future of global cities.

Completed five years ahead of RIBA's 2030 sustainability targets, the six-floor building delivers 35% lower embodied carbon, locks away over 1,800 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere – equivalent to the carbon emissions of building 24 new homes – and has been designed with a whole-life approach in mind. It is engineered for complete disassembly and reuse, a benchmark for circular construction.

"Paradise represents a bold step forward in how we think about workplace design," said Alex Whitbread, Partner at FCBStudios. "It's a project that demonstrates how ambitious sustainability targets, deep community collaboration, and a commitment to wellbeing can come together in a truly regenerative building."

'Paradise SE11', named after Old Paradise Gardens which the building adjoins, set out to create a new standard for workspace design, putting sustainability and wellbeing at the forefront. Natural light floods into the floorplates offering views out to the gardens, connectivity to the passing trains and across to the city skyline in the distance. Generous floor heights, exposing the timber structure for a natural finish and access to green spaces, all contribute to a healthy workplace and human-centric design.

Pavlos Clifton, Head of Development at Bywater said: "This is us rethinking what a central London development can be, not just in form, but in feeling. A place where sustainability, community and creativity don't just co-exist, they drive everything. Paradise is timber-led, design-forward

and proudly different. It's rare to get the chance to shape something this meaningful. Even rarer to do it with a team that genuinely believes in a better way of building."

Designed for flexibility, the ground floor offers space for workshop use and maker space with the upper floors created for adaptability and reconfiguration, dynamically shapeshifting to suit tenant needs. With over 45 years of sustainable workplace design experience, FCBStudios embraced the opportunity to partner with a like-minded developer committed to putting people and planet first.

Designing simplicity:

A collaborative blueprint

At the core of Paradise lies a commitment to designing out complexity. The project team challenged conventional construction methods, opting instead for a streamlined, elegant timber structure that prioritises simplicity, adaptability, and material honesty. This meant eliminating adhesives in favour of mechanical fixings that allow for future disassembly and reuse, a foundational step towards true circular construction.

The decision to expose the timber structure drove a fundamental shift in design thinking. Achieving this required early and close collaboration between architects, structural engineers, fire consultants, and acoustic specialists. Every element, from junctions to finishes, was considered in detail to ensure the exposed timber met performance standards without compromising visual integrity or sustainability goals.

One of the key challenges was resolving material interfaces in a way that preserved the building's demountable nature.





**It's a project that demonstrates
how ambitious sustainability
targets, deep community
collaboration, and a commitment to
wellbeing can come together in
a truly regenerative building...**

*Alex Whitbread
Partner, FCBStudios*





Conventional solutions, such as grout or cementitious screeds, were avoided. Instead, the team developed alternatives using stone wool insulation, dry-fix techniques, and reversible fastenings. These methods support future flexibility while ensuring that the carbon stored in the timber remains locked away for generations.

Human wellbeing:

At the core of urban futures

More than a technical achievement, Paradise is a human-centric building. Floorplates are flooded with natural light, air quality is passively managed with openable façades, and views across Old Paradise Gardens offer vital biophilic relief in the heart of the city.

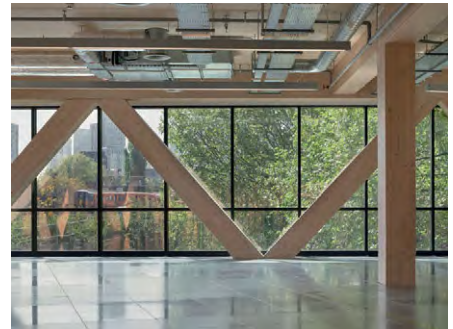
Legacy materials, living facades

One of the most visible symbols of Paradise's legacy is its self-cleaning, demountable terracotta façade, designed

in collaboration with local school children, drawing on the area's Royal Doulton heritage. These tiles, like the building itself, are made to last over 100 years, and can be reused in the future.

A platform for global imitation

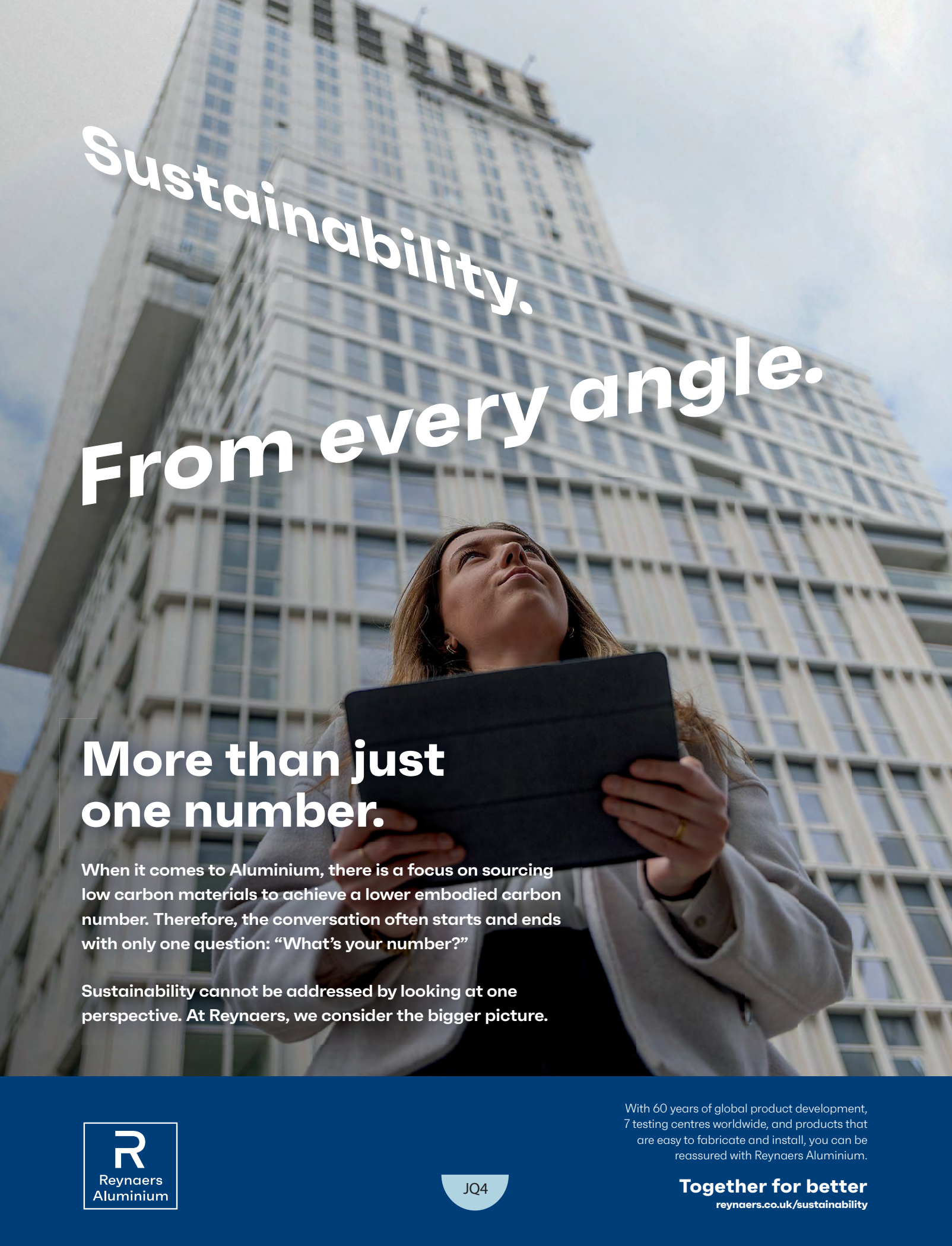
Paradise SE11 serves as a benchmark for the next generation of regenerative cities. By integrating circular economy strategies,



prioritising design simplicity, and placing equal value on human wellbeing and environmental responsibility, the project establishes a replicable model for sustainable urban development. More than just an office building, it demonstrates how architecture can actively contribute to climate solutions, shifting the built environment from being part of the problem to becoming a key part of the answer.

This is workplace design which seeks to challenge the status quo and through rigorous testing and research and innovative approaches proves that environmentally and socially responsible architecture can support the much-needed transition to regenerative design and a zero-carbon economy.

Paradise is more than a workplace, it's a blueprint for a regenerative, low-carbon future. Built to be taken apart, celebrated for its simplicity, and designed to inspire what's next.

A low-angle shot of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a light grey jacket, looking upwards at a tall, modern building with many windows. She is holding a black tablet in front of her. The sky is overcast.

Sustainability. From every angle.

More than just one number.

When it comes to Aluminium, there is a focus on sourcing low carbon materials to achieve a lower embodied carbon number. Therefore, the conversation often starts and ends with only one question: “What’s your number?”

Sustainability cannot be addressed by looking at one perspective. At Reynaers, we consider the bigger picture.



JQ4

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a house of *birch*

*An asymmetric cedar clad extension featuring a large-scale pivot door adds a contemporary kitchen, dining and living area to a three-bed terrace in Teddington, South west London. Birch joinery designed by architect **Forgeworks** features throughout, bringing cohesion across the interiors...*

In addition to creating space for cooking and entertaining, the brief from the owners – a young couple about to start a family – included bringing more natural light into the rear north-facing side of the house and adding storage across the ground floor.

Forgeworks' design overcomes the problems found in many mid-sized terraces, including low ceilings, a hallway with no 'touch down' space, a narrow galley kitchen, and small living and dining rooms.

The new extension reflects the owners' love of Scandinavian design, with clean lines and a material palette of natural wood, white painted exposed brick walls, stainless steel backsplash and pale grey concrete worktop and kitchen island.

Maximising natural light, the pivot door reads almost as a picture window when closed and creates a seamless connection to the new garden terrace when open. At over 2 x 2m, its size is unusual in an extension of this scale and its minimal appearance belies the careful engineering required to place the offset tight to the wall. Care was also taken to conceal the



outer frame within the flush threshold, brickwork reveals and black cedar rainscreen soffits.

A bespoke cast concrete island and dining table is the centrepiece of the new kitchen, paired with birch plywood faced units and joinery designed by the architects. Hidden steelwork in the ceiling, necessary to achieve the open plan layout, creates a 'floating' corner above the island and additional daylight is pulled in through five large roof lights. Back of house storage and utility space is accessed through concealed flush doors.

Across the rest of the ground floor a light touch approach included adding storage in the hallway with a built-in bench and umbrella stand, and in the living room with bespoke cupboards and shelves – again in birch plywood.

Apart from the original staircase, many of the house's period features had been stripped out over the years.

Character has been reintroduced through contemporary interpretations of traditional Victorian detailing such as the creation of a dado line with the use of block colour and routing the flat doors to reference a four panel look.

The new extension is highly insulated

and the original ground floor has also been insulated to improve energy efficiency. On the first floor, high performance insulation has been added to the previously cold back bedroom to

create a comfortable work from home space. A new family bathroom replaces the poorly arranged split toilet bath, finished in resin based terrazzo to create modern monolithic appearance.



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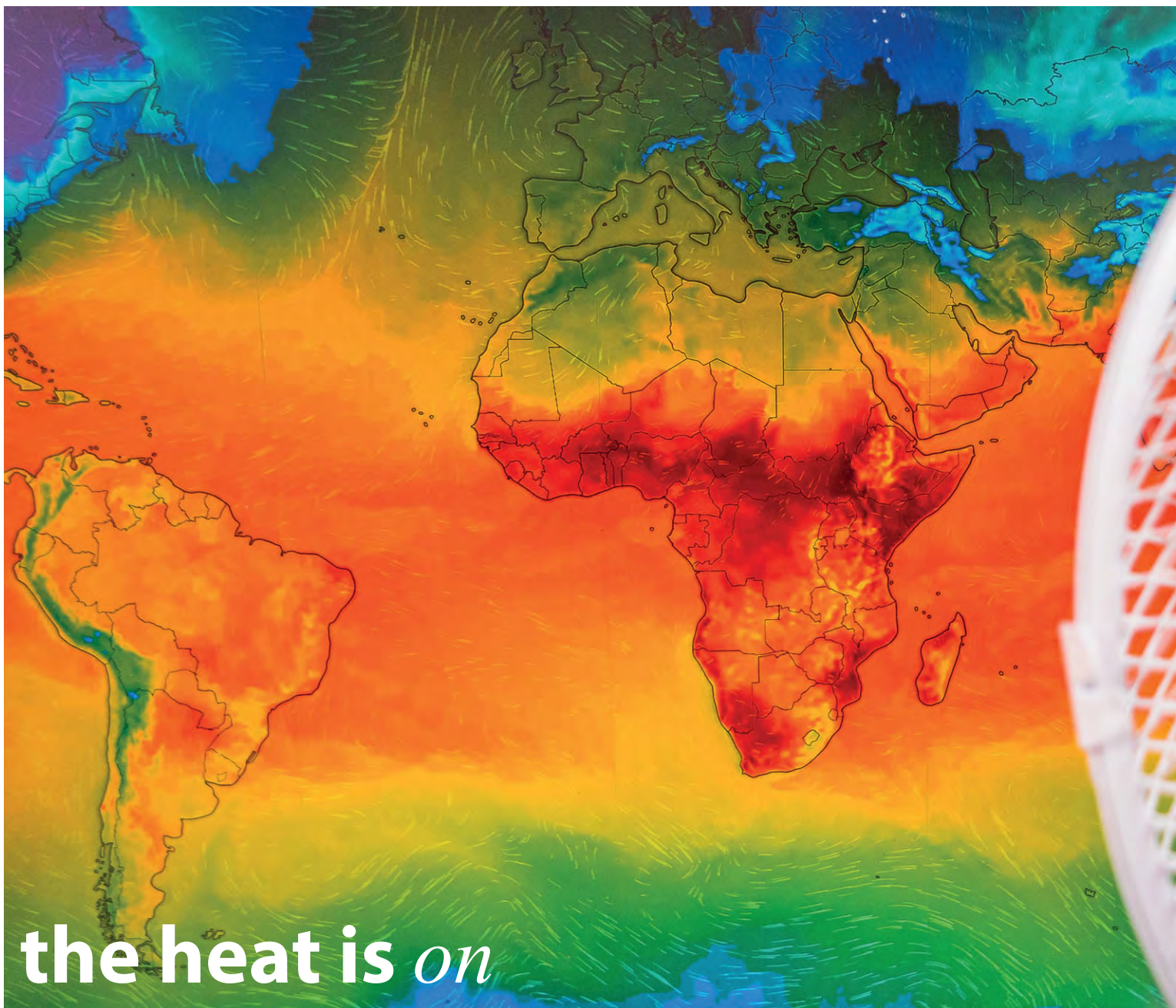
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JQ5



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the heat is *on*

*Overheating is now a critical building safety issue. With the UK set to record its warmest summer on record, the **Building Engineering Services Association (BESA)** is calling for urgent action to tackle the growing number of buildings that overheat...*

The Association says the rising number of deaths linked to longer and more intense heatwaves makes this a serious building safety issue with larger parts of the population now vulnerable to heat-related health problems.

The Met Office confirmed that this summer was already the sunniest and driest on record with temperatures also consistently above average for the longest ever period – 79 days and counting. Researchers from Imperial College London also estimated there were 263 excess deaths due to heat in the capital during June alone.

“2022 might have seen more dramatic temperature peaks but this year seems to mark a move into much longer and more relentless periods of heat stress,” said BESA’s technical director Kevin Morrissey. “This is significant because it suggests we are experiencing a new long-term weather pattern which calls for a more concerted effort to adapt our built environment.”

Research by the environmental campaign group Friends of the Earth (FoE) has identified almost 5,000 neighbourhoods in England that now regularly suffer from heat stress. These areas cover about a third of the country and contain more than 1,000 hospitals,



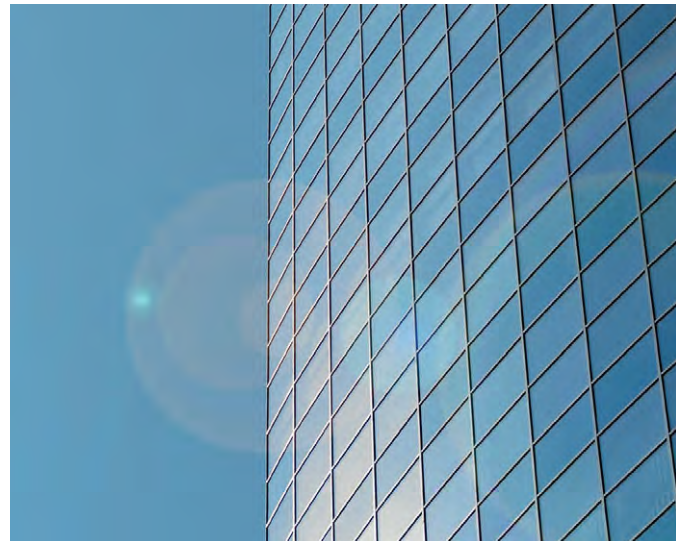
10,000 children's nurseries, and a similar number of care homes meaning many of our most vulnerable people are now at severe risk from the effects of excess heat.

Adaption

FoE believes there could be more than 10,000 heat-related deaths annually in the UK by 2050 and is urging the government to address its "climate adaption plans" to take heatwaves into account.

"There are multiple technical solutions available, including both passive and mechanical cooling systems," said Morrissey. "However, to ensure these reach the most vulnerable in our society cooling must now become a central part of the UK's push to decarbonise the built environment, which continues to focus primarily on how we heat buildings.

"Adapting the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) to support wider adoption of heat pumps that provide cooling in summer as well



as heating would be a positive and easy first step."

BESA also believes overheating should be part of the wider building safety regime. It pointed out that the addition of fire-resistant insulation was making many more homes liable to overheat, so this needed to be offset by better ventilation and cooling.

"Overheating is the most overlooked building safety issue," said Morrissey. "Improving insulation to reduce heat loss and protect occupants from fire is extremely important, but in many cases, this is exacerbating growing health problems caused by poor indoor air quality (IAQ) and condensation by raising temperature and humidity and reducing air change rates."

BESA, which manages the UK's largest refrigeration and air conditioning registration scheme REFCOM, said that the UK's increasingly intense summers were fuelling growth in demand for residential air conditioning. While this is a positive development for human health and comfort, it must be managed carefully to ensure installations met legal and technical standards, the Association warned.

"There is always a risk with any growth market that it attracts the wrong kind of commercial interest," said Morrissey. "We are seeing a surge in demand for heat pumps and for domestic cooling systems, but these need to be properly designed and appropriate for each project.

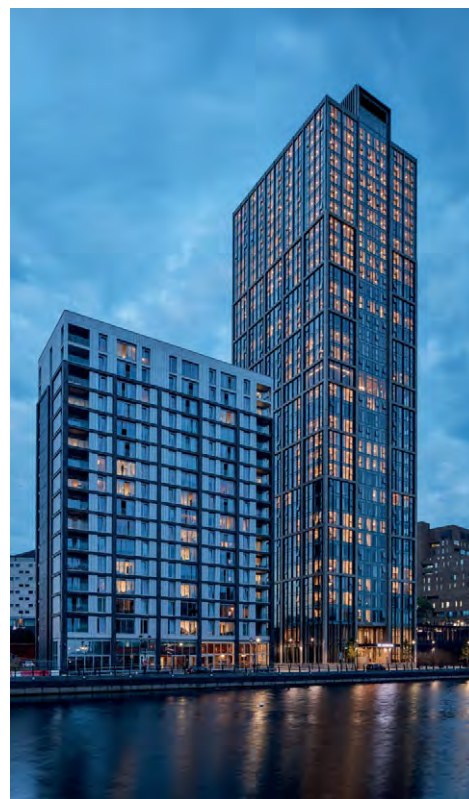
"People need to be appropriately qualified and registered to handle refrigerant gas and to install cooling equipment. There is a 'cowboy' element out there who could do untold damage to this industry and put both the environment and the public at risk of harm, if regulations are not properly enforced.

"The Building Safety Act is beginning to make its presence felt and is driving more responsible behaviour across the construction sector by focusing heavily on competence and compliance. The role of cooling needs to receive a similar level of scrutiny to ensure it can play its part in keeping building occupants safe and healthy."



JQ201

Photographer: ©Hufton+Crow



our sector's new approach to façades, transparency and the *building safety act*

The Building Safety Act (BSA) is ushering in a new age of accountability for construction. It will set and enforce the standards that the built environment needs to ensure the safety of a building's occupants throughout its entire lifespan.

Every party will take responsibility for documenting and evidencing their contribution to a building project. This will demand closer collaborative working – particularly where product and performance standards are combined to create high performance, design-led façades.

Technical competence and demonstrated performance has long been a priority in façades. But these performance standards now need to be thoroughly evidenced, placing greater emphasis on manufacturers to ensure testing data and certification is easily accessible.

As a manufacturer supplying windows and curtain walling systems to be used in façades, all of Reynaers' systems are backed by comprehensive, third-party-verified performance testing. This information

lays out how our components stand up to a wide range of building requirements and regulations including those relating to the pressures of air, wind, water and movement. This is supported by our independent third-party testing facilities housed at Reynaers HQ based in Duffel in Belgium, which is one of the largest façade testing facilities in Europe.

The seamless flow of certified data such as this clears the way for façade-engineering projects to proceed through Gateway 2. Early engagement between all parties during the specification stage is essential to this. It's vital to build and maintain partnerships between fabricators, manufacturers, architects and developers.

While ultimate responsibility rests with the principal designer, it also filters through the supply chain: all parties bear responsibility for ensuring products perform as expected, are specified accurately and installed as intended. There's no margin for error.

Fortunately, digital tools have evolved to provide evidence for the golden thread.

Technology now offers the ability to access product data across the entire lifetime of a building.

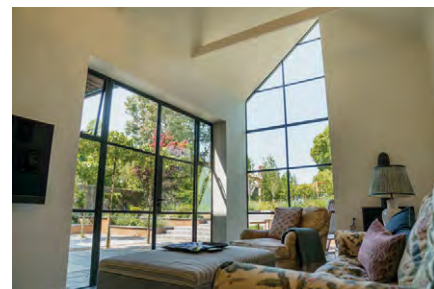
Alongside other manufacturers, Reynaers is introducing digital tools that pull in up-to-date performance and specification data to enable transparency around systems' testing standards. The comprehensive end-to-end system also allows installers to record installation details, with the option to upload images to demonstrate best practice.

Reynaers' DigiTrace tool allows for a transparent, traceable data trail to follow systems through their full lifespan. Accessed via QR codes, DigiTrace data stays up-to-date and supports cross-product use. This extends the transparency to fabricators using products as part of a wider façade project.

This consideration of the big picture should be at the heart of the industry's approach to the BSA. By collectively taking responsibility, we can ensure the highest standards in façade design and fulfilment – together.

How manufacturer diversification leads to unlimited *design possibilities*

Russell Ager, MD of Crittall Windows, explores how diversification in steel window design and manufacturing is helping architects meet rising expectations...



When we look at the way buildings are being designed in Britain today it is clear that the demands placed on architects are becoming more complex. Energy performance targets tighten with each revision of the Building Regulations, clients expect greater design freedom and materials are scrutinised as much for their sustainability as for their looks. In this environment, window and door manufacturers cannot afford to stand still.

Diversification is no longer optional. Our sector must stay relevant, support creativity and ensure that technical performance never comes at the cost of architectural vision. For those of us who make steel fenestration the challenge has always been to combine unmistakable elegance with modern expectations of efficiency, durability and environmental responsibility. Meeting that challenge has required us to broaden our thinking and invest in new solutions at every stage of our history.

At Crittall Windows we have always seen diversification as central to our role. It is why we are still here after more than 175 years and why architects continue to look to us when they want both certainty and choice.

In practice, diversification means providing an extensive product range that meets the needs of conservation areas as well as cutting-edge new builds. We must offer glazing that achieves the slim sightlines associated with steel windows while delivering the thermal performance demanded by modern regulations. We must also design systems that allow architects to respond with confidence when clients prioritise sustainability, security or acoustics.

Architects working on listed properties know that conservation officers often insist on like-for-like replacements. Our ability to supply windows visually indistinguishable from originals while meeting today's standards is a direct result

of product development. At the same time, practices engaged with large-scale urban regeneration want steel systems that can form part of highly glazed façades, curtain walling and interiors where transparency and openness are key. Serving both ends of this spectrum is only possible because we have never allowed ourselves to be defined by a single product or era.

Another strand of diversification is technical. Thermal performance has long been an area where steel systems were seen as limited. By investing in advanced manufacturing techniques, precision engineering and high-performance glazing we have transformed performance. Today's Crittall windows comfortably exceed the requirements of Part L while retaining the delicate profiles that make steel such a powerful design material. This balance of form and function is the result of years of refinement and the refusal to accept that character and compliance must exist in opposition.

Sustainability is now firmly embedded in

architectural decision-making. Here too, diversification has guided our approach. Steel is endlessly recyclable and offers longevity unmatched by many other materials. But sustainability is measured in more than embodied carbon. It is also about the supply chain, the efficiency of production and the ability to design buildings that remain adaptable long into the future. We have invested in energy-efficient plant and lean manufacturing systems to reduce waste and cut emissions, and we work closely with architects to ensure steel windows are specified in ways that maximise lifespan and minimise environmental impact.

Diversification also means listening. Architects don't want a manufacturer who simply offers a catalogue. They seek a partner who engages with their ideas and helps resolve the conflicts that arise between ambition and regulation. Our design and technical teams ensure that each project receives tailored advice and support. By developing this consultative approach we have expanded our role beyond manufacturing into collaboration, a form of diversification less visible than a new product launch but every bit as important.

For architects, the value of diversification is measured in practical outcomes. It allows steel windows to be specified for sensitive heritage projects as well as ambitious new builds. It ensures that compliance with regulations does not require compromise on appearance. And it gives confidence that the systems chosen today will continue to perform as expectations of efficiency and sustainability rise in the years ahead.

Diversification is both a business strategy and a commitment to architects who need solutions as versatile as their ideas. At Crittall that commitment has shaped our past and it will continue to define our future.



Land acquired to deliver new community in Takeley



The Hill Group has agreed to the purchase of two parcels of land at Parsonage Road in Takeley, Essex, with plans to deliver a high-quality new residential community of 108 homes.

The site, which spans almost 16 acres, was acquired

through land promoter Endurance Estates and agent Sworders and has a gross development value of £50m. 40% of the development will be delivered as affordable housing, comprising one and two-bedroom apartments, and two to four-bedroom houses for affordable rent and shared ownership. The development will also offer a range of two to five-bedroom houses for private sale.

To better align with the housing needs of Uttlesford District Council, Hill will replace an existing reserved matters consent for a 66-bedroom care home on part of the land, identified as surplus to local requirements, with additional housing. A reserved matters application for 88 homes and a full application for 20 homes are expected to be submitted this month, with a start on site targeted for summer 2026.

The new homes will be designed to meet high environmental standards in line with Hill's commitment to sustainable development. Features will include energy-efficient fabric-first construction, air-source heat pumps, electric vehicle charging points, cycle storage, and private or shared outdoor space.

Andy Hill OBE, founder and Group Chief Executive of The Hill Group, said: "Parsonage Road is a well-located site that will enable us to deliver high-quality new homes in an area where there is a strong housing need. By adapting existing consents to reflect local housing requirements, we can create a new residential community that truly enhances the local area. We look forward to engaging with residents and stakeholders as we develop our detailed proposals."

The Guild of Master Craftsmen backs apprenticeship placements boost

The Guild of Master Craftsmen is partnering with Croydon College to promote apprenticeship opportunities to its extensive member network, encouraging businesses to offer placements and helping more young people take their first steps into skilled craft careers. While Croydon College remains the training provider, the Guild's role is to champion the opportunities, signpost employers and support members to bring apprentices into their teams.

With many businesses reporting skills gaps, apprenticeships provide a practical route to grow capability while giving young people valuable, paid, real-world experience from day one. Croydon College designs and delivers tailored programmes aligned to employer needs and provides end-to-end support from recruitment to mentoring to help placements succeed with minimal disruption.

There is a particular shortage of carpentry apprenticeship placements in Greater London. The Guild is urging members able to host an apprentice to get in touch. Offering a placement supports your workflow today and helps safeguard essential skills for tomorrow.

Guild accredited businesses interested in offering an apprenticeship placement, especially in carpentry, are invited to contact the Guild to be connected with the Croydon College team.

For more information visit www.guildmc.com

'The Big Construction Debate' sets out skills and vision at Labour Party Conference

On 30 September 2025, representatives from across the UK construction industry sat alongside parliamentarians at this year's Labour Party Conference for 'The Big Construction Debate', a high-profile discussion on how the sector can deliver the skills, homes, and infrastructure needed to support growth and net zero.

Representing the National Federation of Builders (NFB) was Rico Wojtulewicz, Head of Policy and Market Insight, who highlighted that planning can be more than just permission to build, it can enable placemaking and forward planning for further growth.

Two sessions addressed two of the biggest challenges facing the sector: skills shortages and low productivity, both of which threaten the delivery of the Government's ambition to build 1.5 million new homes, retrofit five million properties, and invest in vital national infrastructure.

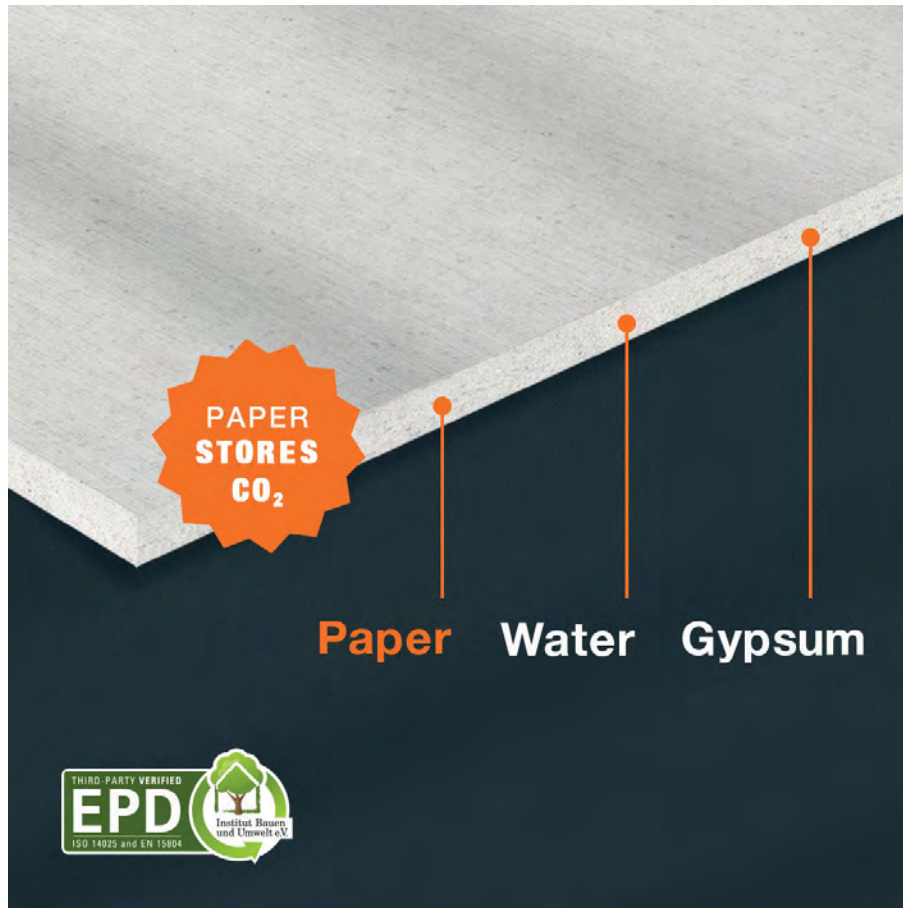
Construction Minister, Chris McDonald MP started out by focusing on the three Ps: "pipeline, people and productivity". He related this to his experience working in the steel and development industries. Mike Reader MP, the Government's construction champion, highlighted the importance of procurement reform in delivering growth and greater opportunities for SMEs.

Rico Wojtulewicz said: "We must permit more reservoirs, and treatment works if we want to end water pollution. Commercial space is as important as housing – both are needed – not one over the other.

"The planning process doesn't just kill projects and ambition, but it creates unpredictable delays that kills growth and productivity. SME constructors cannot afford to grow the workforce without project certainty and fair procurement. Investors will not wait around for commercial spaces to get the green light and will take their capital elsewhere. Another generation must not be locked out of housing because we fear NIMBYS. If projects do not happen, neither does sustained growth and investment in the UK."

fermacell® Fibre Gypsum Boards:

A Sustainable Revolution in Commercial and Timber Frame Architecture



In the evolving landscape of sustainable architecture, material choice is no longer just a matter of performance – it's a statement of environmental responsibility. Among the frontrunners in this movement is James Hardie with its brand fermacell®, whose EPD-verified fibre gypsum boards are redefining standards in commercial and timber frame construction.

What sets fermacell® fibre gypsum board apart is its carbon-storing capability throughout the entire product life

cycle. Thanks to optimised recycling processes and responsible raw material sourcing, these boards don't just reduce emissions – they store CO₂*. This makes them a powerful ally in the fight against climate change and a compelling choice for architects committed to low-carbon design.

Unlike traditional gypsum boards, fermacell® fibre gypsum boards are manufactured using a unique combination of recycled paper fibres, gypsum, and water – without any added adhesives. This not only enhances their structural integrity but also ensures a clean, closed-loop production cycle. The result is a product that's robust, versatile, and environmentally sound.

From a design perspective, fermacell® fibre gypsum boards offer exceptional load-bearing capacity, racking strength, fire resistance, and acoustic performance, making it ideal for high-spec commercial

interiors and multi-storey timber frame buildings. Its ability to support heavy fixtures without additional reinforcement simplifies installation and reduces material waste – an often overlooked contributor to a project's carbon footprint.

The Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) verification provides architects with transparent, third-party-certified data on the product's environmental impact. This is crucial for projects aiming to meet BREEAM certification standards, where material selection plays a pivotal role in achieving sustainability targets.

In timber frame construction, where the emphasis is on lightweight, high-performance materials, fermacell® boards shine. Their dimensional stability and moisture resistance make them particularly suited to off-site prefabrication and modular building techniques both of which are gaining traction as efficient, low-impact construction methods.

But perhaps the most compelling reason to specify fermacell® fibre gypsum boards is its contribution to carbon positive building strategies. By storing CO₂* rather than emitting it, these boards help offset the embodied carbon of other materials used in a project. This aligns perfectly with the architectural shift toward regenerative design, where buildings don't just do less harm, but actively improve the environment.

As the industry moves toward net-zero targets, architects must look to embrace materials that support long-term ecological balance alongside aesthetics and functionality.

fermacell® fibre gypsum boards offer a rare combination of technical excellence and environmental integrity, making them the number one choice for forward-thinking commercial and timber frame projects.

In a world where every design decision carries environmental weight, choosing fermacell® is more than a specification – it's a commitment to building better.

Discover now:
www.fermacell.co.uk/sustainability-meets-simplicity

*CO₂ storing refers to production stages A1-A3 of EPD.



JamesHardie™

fermacell®

JQ7

efficient buildings in focus at *elemental*LONDON

*New show at Excel London will put decarbonisation and energy in the spotlight, says **Andrew Gaved**, content programme manager...*



Anyone who works in the supply chain of the built environment can be in no doubt that the pressure is on to reduce both energy and carbon in buildings. Whether it is legislation in the shape of the Future Homes Standard, driving decisions on the removal of fossil fuels, or the requirements of building owners to reduce carbon (both embodied and operational) for their ESG reporting, 'making buildings better' is an imperative, not a luxury.

Our show, *elemental*LONDON, aims to tackle these issues by bringing the buildings industry together to focus on practical solutions, highlighting the realities on the ground for those who design and build; for those who own and operate the buildings; and for those who supply and install the technology that makes life more comfortable, productive, energy efficient and cost-effective for occupants.

The show at London's Excel on 19-20 November, which incorporates the CIBSE Build2Perform exhibition, is going to be a destination event for the buildings community, 4,000 visitors expected and 200 exhibitors representing brands such as Daikin, Baxi, Danfoss, E.ON, Mitsubishi Electric and Polypipe.

In and around the exhibition hall, *elemental*LONDON will be a major networking and information event, featuring architects, consultants, Tier One and Specialist Contractors, Local Authorities, Housing Associations, Developers and Housebuilders, along with a whole range of specialist service suppliers and manufacturers.

The theatre programme will be covering the latest thinking, methods and innovations in a huge range of subjects, in no fewer than five Content Theatres: the main *elemental* ARENA,



the Climate Solutions Theatre and the Housing Hub, together with CIBSE's Synergy and Influence Theatres.

Subjects under discussion will include everything from retrofit to indoor air quality and from the policy landscape to the opportunities with large heat pumps.

Another talking point will be provided by The HAUS, a two-storey house which will be assembled live in the main exhibition hall to demonstrate new rapid construction techniques, integrated with low-carbon technology and services.

The importance of *elemental*LONDON as a forum for inspirational, informed discussion and a platform for potential change is demonstrated by our partners representing members from right across the built environment. To-date we have over 25 partners including: RIBA, RICS, CIBSE, CIOB, BESA, Energy UK, the Heat Pump Association, Actuate UK, CIAT, BEAMA, CIPHE, the Sustainable Energy Association, IOR and ASHRAE.

The full programme went live in September, and can be viewed at <https://elementallondon.show/2025-event-timetable/> but we already have a number of highlights to get excited about. Here are ten:

- Leading architect Michael Pawlyn on his insights into the quest for sustainability and regenerative design.
- The Construction Inclusion Coalition leading a panel discussion on how to improve inclusivity in the built environment.
- ASHRAE president Bill McQuade on Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life.
- The government's Construct Zero Group discussing Designing for Net Zero.
- A RIBA architects' panel on Building the Future.



JQ8

- Scotland's low carbon agency BE:ST offering the Scottish Perspective on Innovation.
- A panel of architects and developers tackling the practical – and financial – challenges to Decarbonising London.
- Phil Steele, Octopus Energy's Future Technologies Evangelist presenting his views on the Electric Future.
- An expert panel examining whether Water Scarcity is one of our biggest sustainability challenges.
- The Great Heat Network debate, featuring funders, consultants, and clients giving an honest appraisal of the policy and technology opportunities.

Plus discussions on Low Carbon Schools, Decarbonising the NHS, Climate Resilience, the Mould Crisis and developing a low carbon workforce.

When we add in the hundreds of exhibitors offering innovations and energy saving products and services, you can see that our promise of 'something for everybody in the built environment' is not an idle boast.

To register for your free ticket to *elemental*LONDON, scan the QR code or visit elementallondon.show for more information.



Come along, be a part of the conversation and help to accelerate the journey to better buildings!

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JQ9



Slimline design - fits into shallow ceiling void

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Buildingtalk is a major online resource for building and construction professionals. For over a decade, it has offered news, product and technical specifications, as well as case studies, brochure downloads and videos from suppliers across the industry, plus free weekly news and product email updates.

Buildingtalk, also the home of ABC&D and PSB magazines, provides easy access to social media including X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn, features regular guest articles and the latest from industry events.

JQ11

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JQ10



Construction begins on Staffordshire Police Firearms Training Facility



Morgan Sindall Construction's Midlands business has officially commenced works to deliver a new Police Firearms Training Facility for Staffordshire Police, which will meet their training needs for the next 30-40 years.

Procured through the Constructing West Midlands Framework, the £17.6m scheme will see the demolition of existing buildings to make way for a modern training facility. This will enable the force to train its Armed Response Officers to ensure the continued protection of the Staffordshire community, and to meet its mutual aid obligations.

Once complete, the new facility will feature a 10-lane, 50m live-fire range and a purpose-built, two-storey training hub designed to meet the advanced training needs of specialist police units. In addition to the main building works, the project will deliver a range of external improvements, including hard and soft landscaping and the installation of a new sub-station.

In collaboration with Blue Sky Architects and Appleyard & Trew LLP, the new facility has been designed to enhance Staffordshire Police's training provision, ensuring officers have access to the very best environment and resources that support high-quality, near-realistic preparation. The building design includes energy efficient heating and lighting systems, and solar power generation which will minimise the running costs.

As part of Morgan Sindall Construction's commitment to the scheme and local community, the team will also be supporting Care of Police Survivors (COPS) – a charity that provides emotional and practical support for bereaved families of police officers and staff who have lost their lives on duty.

Inclusive neurodiversity policies bring great benefits to construction sector

An overwhelming majority of project managers in the construction sector believe their company has directly benefited from extra adjustments to accommodate neurodivergent staff, a survey conducted by the Association for Project Management (APM) has revealed.

The findings report 97.5% of construction project managers believed the introduction of inclusive policies, such as the introduction of more structured routines, sensory-friendly zones in offices, and inclusive onboarding and training, all helped neurodivergent staff integrate into their businesses.

Research by APM has found that making workplaces more inclusive and accessible for neurodivergent people can bring benefits such as better problem solving, risk management and long-term planning.

In addition, 98% also believe that construction project management is welcoming and supportive of people who are neurodivergent, which includes people with conditions such as autism, ADHD, and dyslexia.

However, many of those surveyed also think policies could be improved, with a majority saying their companies need more guidance on neurodiversity and how to accommodate neurodivergent staff.

In this latest survey, more than 90% of those who identified as neurodivergent felt confident enough to disclose that to their employer. And out of those individuals, more than 85% had adjustments made to their working patterns to accommodate this.

Civil engineering tender prices rise

The BCIS Civil Engineering TPI panel has revealed civil engineering tender prices rose by an estimated 1% between 2Q2025 and 3Q2025.

The panel, comprised of cost consultants from firms involved in multiple civil engineering tenders in the UK, advises on the latest movement in tender prices, i.e. prices agreed between client and constructor at commit to construct, as well as providing commentary on conditions affecting pricing levels.

This insight helps to inform quarterly updates to the BCIS Civil Engineering Tender Price Index.

Dr David Crosthwaite, chief economist at BCIS, said: "While recent government announcements have brought greater clarity on long-term investment, delivery is still sluggish.

"Panellists pointed to extended pre-construction phases, limited client-side resources and complex business case approvals as factors slowing the start of public sector projects.

"This is delaying any immediate increase in workload, though infrastructure continues to outperform other areas, with some clear hot sub-sectors."

Panellists reported that infrastructure remains the most active sector within construction, with several sub-sectors performing strongly.

Aviation was described as the fastest-moving market, while investment is also picking up in ports and harbours, with private capital, including Middle Eastern investment in energy and vehicle logistics, driving activity.

Rail is also sustaining high levels of workload through programmes such as East West Rail and Northern Powerhouse Rail, alongside continued HS2 delivery.

Water sector investment under AMP8 is starting to generate demand, particularly around underground piping works, while the recent defence spending review could stimulate work across roads, aviation and other civils sub-sectors.

Labour availability and wage pressures were described as the predominant drivers of cost inflation.

For more information: www.bcis.co.uk

Diffusionwww.diffusion-group.com

British heating and cooling equipment specialist Diffusion is celebrating its Modular Highline 275 fan coil range sweeping the board by reaching the final in seven different prestigious awards.

Officially launched in May 2025, the Modular Highline 275 has achieved a shortlisting in every award it has been entered in. The Modular Highline 275 expands Diffusion's award-winning modular range of fan coil units to offer a new, higher-capacity option, providing airflows up to 514l/s. This ensures that even large-scale spaces, such as hotels, receptions, and offices, can benefit from the range's modular design.

The new Modular Highline 275 Range has been shortlisted in the London Construction Awards, the National Sustainability Awards, the BESA Awards, the H&V News Awards, and the HVR Awards, in seven different categories. The range has been recognised by the award schemes for both its sustainability credentials and product innovation, highlighting the Modular Highline 275's advanced components that deliver low sound levels, reduced energy consumption, and optimal performance.

"The range is almost endlessly configurable, and offers quiet, high-performance and energy-efficient heating and cooling for the perfect indoor environment," said Alexis Roberts at Diffusion.



**New Modular Highline
Fan Coil Units**



JQ202

West Fraser<https://uk.westfraser.com/>

Politicians in both Westminster and Edinburgh are fond of talking about creating a 'Circular Economy', and the First Minister of the Scottish Parliament, John Swinney, recently had the satisfaction of opening the new Alexanders' Timber Design timber frame plant

which is demonstrably putting this theory into practice.

Inverness-based West Fraser is supplying its highly sustainable SterlingOSB Zero in a manner which can truly be described as a closed loop process, while keeping road miles to a minimum.

The state-of-the-art, 9,600m² plant at Irvine, Scotland, has been built to the demanding specification of Alexanders' Timber Design, part of Glennon Brothers, a 112 year old family business in the timber processing sector. The business moved from a site adjacent to its parent company's long established sawmill business, six miles away. However, not only are the open and closed cell timber frame systems produced using home-grown Scottish timber, but waste wood chippings from the Glennon Brothers sawmills form an important part of the responsibly sourced, FSC-certified West Fraser supply chain, from which it produces its renowned SterlingOSB Zero.

John Swinney remarked during the opening of the £18m facility that its output would help deliver on the Scottish Government's Net Zero and affordable housing aspirations.

JQ203

PMPwww.pmpplc.co.uk

Manchester-based building consultancy firm PMP has appointed a new Projects Director to spearhead growth plans in the North West.

The business, which also has offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Bristol, has recruited Michelle Richardson to head up its new project management team in Manchester.

Richardson boasts more than 20 years of experience in the property sector, including a long stint at Deloitte Real Estate and more recent roles at Motion Project Management, and Property Alliance Group.

Originally from an architectural background, Richardson's skillset lies in understanding entire lifecycles of projects across various sizes, values, and sectors. She offers extensive planning and programming knowledge, as well as senior leadership capabilities.

She began her new role earlier this month and will oversee PMP's range of project management briefs, working with its national client base including Royal London and Marks and Spencer.

The appointment marks a new chapter for PMP Manchester, which has just celebrated its best year in business.

The regional team, headed up by director Ben Walker, has witnessed increased demand for project management services in the North West after a string of multi-million-pound project wins.

JQ204

Vent-Axiawww.vent-axia.com

Leading British ventilation manufacturer Vent-Axia has expanded its Dudley Manufacturing centre, located on the Blackbrook Valley Industrial Estate, Narrowboat Way.

The expansion increases capacity to support the anticipated uptick in demand for low-carbon ventilation. This significant investment provides Vent-Axia with a dedicated factory for its commercial and industrial ventilation range, alongside new equipment, additional warehouse space, and new members of staff, adding to its production team. These improvements will enhance production times and allow customers to benefit from shorter lead times.

As part of the expansion, Vent-Axia has increased production line capacity for its commercial and industrial ventilation products to meet increased demand for commercial products, including the multi-award-winning Sentinel Apex. A new production flow line now provides a streamlined production sequence moving products step-by-step through each stage of manufacture, boosting efficiency and increasing output at the Dudley site. Meanwhile, the additional warehouse space allows for greater stockholding of both finished units and parts. Vent-Axia will now hold stock of all models in the Sentinel Apex, Heat Recovery range, in addition to other commercial products.

JQ205



Elevated Interiors, Seamless Performance: Grant Westfield Launches Expanded Naturepanel Collection

In the world of architectural design and specification, the search for finishes that combine design impact, durability, and sustainability is constant. Enter the newly extended Naturepanel collection from **Grant Westfield** – a complete decorative wall panelling solution designed with specifiers, architects, and developers firmly in mind.

Building on the success of its award-winning range, the Naturepanel brand has now launched a significantly expanded range, including striking new décors, new 2,700mm height panel sizes, and the all-new Shiplap collection – a broader slat design that reimagines rustic and coastal aesthetics for modern interiors.

This launch marks a pivotal evolution for Naturepanel, cementing its place as the go-to wall panelling system for residential developments, hotels, student accommodation, retail fit-outs, and high-traffic commercial settings alike.

A Unified Wall Panelling Solution

The newly launched Wood Slat range has been refreshed with four new décors – Grained Alpine White, Grained Angora Grey, Grained Stone Green, and Beige Grey Lorenzo Oak – now sitting alongside the existing Warmia Walnut, Bleached Cuneo Oak, and Brown Cuneo Oak finishes. These finely detailed, narrow-slat panels introduce organic warmth and minimalist elegance into any space, making them ideal for contemporary residential schemes or hospitality environments inspired by the Japandi or Scandinavian design trends.

To meet the needs of taller spaces, Naturepanel now also offers a 2,700mm

panel height, perfect for Victorian townhouses, open-plan new builds, or commercial interiors where clean, floor-to-ceiling lines matter. The extended height minimises visible joins and eliminates the need for horizontal trims, ensuring a visually seamless and grout-free finish.

Completing the portfolio is the brand new Shiplap collection. Offering a wider slat profile and etched shadow lines that mimic traditional timber panelling, the Shiplap range brings texture and depth with a softer, more heritage-inspired design edge. Available in seven natural decors, from warm oaks to cool tones solids, Shiplap is perfectly suited to boutique hotel bathrooms, country home refurbishments, or stylish commercial spaces looking to blend classic aesthetics with modern performance.

Functional Elegance with Commercial Durability

Naturepanel isn't just about looks, it's about delivering finishes that are practical, long-lasting, and easy to work with.

Each panel features Hydrolock, Grant Westfield's precision-engineered tongue and groove system, delivering a completely waterproof, seamless join that eliminates the need for grout or sealant. This makes Naturepanel an ideal wall solution for wet rooms, hotel ensembles, kitchens, changing rooms, and even student accommodation where both hygiene and speed of installation are key.

What's more, Naturepanel is manufactured in the UK to strict quality standards, with all panels FSC® certified

(FSC® C128180), 100% recyclable, and backed by a 30-year warranty. Panels are also quick and easy to install, offering significant labour savings over traditional tiling methods – an important consideration for value-engineered builds and time-critical projects.

A Versatile Finish for Every Room and Every Project

Naturepanel is already being embraced by interior designers, developers, and architects looking for finishes that can flow from room to room. In a boutique hotel, for example, Wood Slat panels in Warmia Walnut create a statement feature in the lobby, while Grained Alpine White in the ensuite bathroom maintains a light, seamless flow. In new build homes, Shiplap in Stone Green offers a fresh take on a kitchen splashback, while Beige Grey Lorenzo Oak panels in the hallway create an upscale first impression.

Thanks to its modular sizing and variety of décors, Naturepanel can be used vertically or horizontally to suit each project's vision – from residential to retail, from compact to large-scale developments

Designed for Today, Built for Tomorrow

Whether you're designing the interiors of a multi-unit housing scheme, renovating a period property, or specifying finishes for a flagship hotel project, the new and extended Naturepanel range from Grant Westfield gives you the flexibility, finish, and future-proofing you need.

www.naturepanel.co.uk

JQ206

Anglian Building Products hits next milestone on social value delivery journey

Anglian Building Products (ABP), the social housing sector's window and door partner for the last six decades, is delighted to announce it has been awarded the Social Value Level 2 Management Certificate from Social Value International. The Level Two 'Implement' Certificate recognises ABP's implementation of practices and methods that measure, manage and maximise social value across the business including its positive impact on the individuals and communities in which the teams live and work.

Samantha Alleyne, ABP's Head of Business Development and Major Bid comments: "With social value such a core part of our strategy, I'm delighted that we've been awarded the Social Value International Level 2 accreditation which demonstrates the implementation of robust systems within our business that are supporting the delivery of meaningful social value.

"Evolving from our Level 1 certificate, we've embedded our social value management approach for our teams, clients, residents and supply chain, and with Level 3 in our sights, we'll

be continuously improving what we do and how we do it. Always guided by transparency, responsibility and authenticity, ABP's commitment extends beyond client social value delivery, it's fundamental to ABP and the wider Group."

Helping to put ABP's social value into practice, is Billy Lowe, Social Value Lead who comments: "The three levels of the Social Value International accreditations – Level 1 recognises a commitment to social value, Level 2 is awarded for implementation of a social value management system and Level 3 is granted for maximising the approach to social value measurement – set out ABP's direction of travel. We believe passionately that social value has to be much more than a tick box exercise. It is something that can have real impact on people's lives.

"At ABP, we're keen to find out what the communities where we're working actually need, rather than making grand, expensive gestures. That's part of my role, to talk to people about what they need and how we can make a true difference.



Achieving Level 2 means we continue to double down and embed this into the strong, organisational culture that ABP has created when it comes to social value."

For more information email samantha.alleyne@angliangroup.com or visit www.anglian-building.co.uk

Are pitched roof underlays 'easy to install'?

The marketing of pitched roof underlays should avoid the phrase 'easy to install,' which is subjective and depends on user experience. Pitched roofing is a skilled trade, and suggesting that an underlay is 'easy' to install implies it can be done well even with limited experience.

For that reason, the phrase features in the document Words and Phrases to Avoid Using, published by the Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI). Nevertheless, pitched roof underlays can include features and characteristics that make them as user-friendly as possible for experienced installers.

Case study

Essential repairs and renovation are being carried out on a parish church in Oxfordshire, as part of which St Mary's Barton is receiving a new pitched roof covering and underlay.

While the church is not particularly old compared to some, having been built in 1958, it possesses architectural significance. The architect, NF Cachemaille- Day, designed some of the most revolutionary 20th century churches in the UK, including

St Mary's. The reroofing works therefore had to be specified and carried out respecting the architectural heritage of the building.

The church's pitched roof specification was the responsibility of the roofing contractor, and Speakman Roofing put forward **Proctor Air**® as their preferred underlay.

"We use Proctor Air on nearly every project. The feedback from our installers is that it's good to use. It gets all the little things right that matter to the people using it," said Andrew Speakman – Director at Speakman Roofing.

"The air permeability of Proctor Air makes it very versatile for us," said Andrew Speakman. "St Mary's Church featured a traditional pantile on a mortar-bedded creasing tile eave. Proctor Air gave us a breathable roof without sacrificing the traditional elements, and while maintaining the original appearance of the building."

Find out more about Proctor Air: <https://proctorgroup.com/products/proctor-air>





Donaldson Timber Systems launches timber frame training programme

Offsite timber frame manufacturer, **Donaldson Timber Systems** has launched an industry-first timber frame skills hub, to develop a workforce capable of building using offsite timber frame. With over 50 years of experience, Donaldson Timber Systems is responding to the skills crisis by harnessing its knowledge and expertise of offsite timber frame to develop a bespoke training programme.

Modules have been created for all disciplines, from design and technical to commercial and construction, empowering Donaldson Timber Systems customers to realise the true benefits of building in timber frame, in terms of cost, speed and performance.

The programme is available on GRASSP, a new online training platform, designed to make construction learning easy. It can be accessed on desktop or mobile with 24/7 access to allow for practical guidance on the move.

Supported through the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)'s Industry Impact Fund, the interactive training programme consists of a series of easy-to-follow expert lessons, best practice guidance, checklists, tutorials and visual aids covering every stage, from design and commercial appraisals to installation and site completion.

Alex Goodfellow, CEO at Donaldson Offsite said: "The future success of the housing sector depends on the skills, confidence and availability of people to deliver it. Rather than add to the narrative about the problem of the skills crisis, we want to contribute to the solution. By working with CITB and GRASSP, we have taken our knowledge and developed a timber frame training programme to

support housebuilders and contractors that want to make the change to timber frame and need guidance.

"To succeed and build sustainable homes more quickly, the industry must be fully equipped with new knowledge and capability. We believe by launching this training hub and sharing our expertise, we can make a difference. Collaboration will raise the whole sector – closing the skills gap, accelerating timber frame adoption and building the workforce and homes of the future that we so desperately need."

Tim Balcon, CEO, Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), said: "We are delighted to support Donaldson Timber Systems and GRASSP with funding through the CITB Industry Impact Fund. Ensuring that on-site teams have the knowledge and skills required to effectively plan and build using Modern Methods of Construction is key to enabling better decision-making and encouraging a 'right first time' mindset.

"The Industry Impact Fund supports projects that shape the future of construction, boosting skills, innovation and collaboration. The Fund gives employers the power to design and develop training solutions that don't already exist – ensuring they are scalable, sustainable and make a lasting impact."

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, Donaldson Timber Systems offers unrivalled experience and knowledge in offsite construction, operating from a network of manufacturing and technical centres across the UK.

www.donaldsontimbersystems.com



iVector S2: the perfect solution for commercial projects

From hotels and schools to offices and churches, commercial spaces demand heating and cooling systems that are fast, efficient and adaptable. The iVector S2 fan convactor from **Myson** delivers just that – combining smart performance with sleek, space-saving design.

With rapid temperature control, the iVector S2 uses low water content and a specially engineered axial fan to react quickly to changes in room conditions, even at low system temperatures. Whether for heating in winter or cooling in summer, it ensures year-round indoor comfort as, when paired with a reversible heat pump or dedicated cooling source, its dual functionality becomes a major asset.

Ideal for modern commercial environments, the compact unit offers flexible installation: wall-mounted, wall-recessed, floor-standing, ceiling-mounted or even ceiling-integrated. This makes it a stylish solution

for hotels, schools, and contemporary offices where visual appeal and efficiency go hand in hand.

Control is simple via the built-in LCD panel, with optional remote control or integration with a Building Management System for centralised, intelligent operation. In short, the iVector S2 is the perfect balance of form, function, and energy efficiency, making it a smart choice for any commercial project.

For more information, visit www.myson.co.uk



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Fill in the details on the address card or complete the digital enquiry form at www.abcd-info.co.uk



FIREFLY takes stand at London Build 2025

TBA FIREFLY® is exhibiting at this year's London Build for the first time, which is being staged at London Olympia. FIREFLY will be showcasing its full range of flexible fire barriers on Stand O40 from the 19-20 November. FIREFLY has invested in a brand-new stand which will feature not just the whole product range and will incorporate state of the art touch screens and TV to showcase the company to a new audience. The annual event enables attendees to source 10,000+ of the latest fire protection and prevention products and solutions, receive practical advice in person and experience live demonstrations – all of which will happen on the FIREFLY stand.

One of 450+ exhibitors, the pioneering UK manufacturer will be putting special focus on its new FB180 Ablative Batt Systems for floor, wall and roof cavity upgrades, along with the recently launched Fire Collars. Alongside this, they will also be launching VapourSafe™, a new vapour permeable, breathable membrane, plus their brand-new high performance, linear joint seal, SPAN.

As with all its products, the visitors will be able to see that Firefly's flexible fire barriers, access hatches and ancillary fixings offer exceptional benefits. The barriers like Zeus and Apollo are renowned for being lightweight and easy to install, and are fully supported by independent certification, covering a variety of substrates and permitting penetrations to be protected.

info@tba-pt.com
www.tbafirefly.com



Marmox on display at London Build 2025 with revamped wetroom range

Already recognised as a leader in the wetroom and shower market, **Marmox** will be unveiling a radically revamped range of products at London Build at Olympia 19-20 November – offering wider benefits for installers and end users.

Visitors to Stand C25 will have the chance to view the easy to install and robust but attractive Multiboard Showerlay options which have been brought under the Multiboard family of wetroom products. They will feature a completely different type of centre drain, fitted with a choice of coloured grates – encompassing stainless steel, white and black – as well as having a fleeced layer across the top of the tray, with a 100mm wide surplus to be tanked

in with the adjacent floor or wall membrane. All of the Showerlays are constructed of high-density polystyrene, extruded to the exact dimensions and fall to guarantee the correct flow into a new in-built drain, while the insulation is coated on both sides with fibreglass mesh embedded into Marmox's unique blend of cement polymer mortar.

While products like Minilay and various sizes of Showerlay are being discontinued, popular sizes such as 900 x 1,200mm and 1,000 x 1,000mm are being retained. Alongside these will sit various new sizes of Showerlay, in both centre and offset drain positions. Designed to be easily trimmable, offering countless size options. As well as the additional sizes and configurations of point drain Showerlays, a further selection of Linear Showerlay options will be available later in the year.

The Marketing Manager for Marmox, Grant Terry comments: "We are really excited about our new wetroom offering. We have listened carefully to what our customers are asking for and made changes accordingly. This has resulted in new Showerlay sizes being added to the range, a new drain and additional wetroom products being made available. We manufacture Marmox Multiboards to a very high standard, offering total peace of mind for tilers, plasterers and homeowners."

Also new to the Multiboard range will be two stylish, tileable, vanity basins which are wall mountable and supported by solid bars running through them. There will be a choice of either a point trap or a linear trap. Furthermore, a tileable floating shelf, designed to support a more traditional basin sink, or simply towels, is also being added to the range.

sales@marmox.co.uk
www.marmox.co.uk

JQ17



JQ208



Updates to Varmax Mk2 floor-standing boiler range

Hamworthy Heating is pleased to introduce the latest updates to its Varmax floor-standing condensing boiler range. Designed to improve installation and maintenance efficiency, the new and improved Varmax Mk2 offers greater flexibility, enhanced performance, and easier servicing for a wide range of commercial heating applications. The latest updates include a new touch-screen interface for intuitive operation and seamless navigation, and an improved casing design that allows easier access to key components. Built for long-term reliability, the Varmax Mk2 floor standing condensing boiler range features a durable, corrosion-resistant stainless steel heat exchanger, backed by a five-year warranty, offering excellent resistance to varying system water conditions.

New from Garador

Garador has launched an all-in-one GaraPro automation solution, combining the renowned reliability and style of a Carlton or Horizon up-and-over door with a new GaraPro electric operator with handset and framed retractable gear – all for just £949 + VAT, fully fitted The Carlton and Horizon are two of Garador's most popular steel garage-door designs, engineered for strength, weather resistance, and low maintenance. An optional Retractable Plus enhancement is available at an additional cost. This exclusive offer is available through Garador's nationwide network of approved installers. To learn more or book your installation, email promo@garador.co.uk or call 0330 4415 222.



JQ210

The ECLISSE Flush Hinged Doors Advantage

In contemporary architecture and interior design, clean lines and minimalism are more than trends – they're statements. **ECLISSE** understands this, delivering flush hinged doors that redefine discreet elegance. These doors sit perfectly in line with the wall, creating a seamless surface that enhances spatial flow and visual harmony in both residential and commercial environments.

What truly sets ECLISSE apart is their precision-engineered frame systems and commitment to innovation. ECLISSE provides a complete solution for interiors: a flush door panel, hidden hinges, and an expertly designed frame system that allows for painting or wallpapering directly over the surface – no architraves, no visual interruptions. The result is a door that virtually disappears when closed, offering designers and architects total creative freedom.

Moreover, ECLISSE products are built to last. Their robust frames ensure durability and offer a 15-year guarantee. Installation is straightforward, backed by dedicated technical support and UK-based expertise.

For those seeking both form and function in interior door design, ECLISSE's flush hinged doors are the gold standard – combining Italian design flair with exceptional build quality. In a market full of compromises, ECLISSE offers a solution where nothing is left to chance, and everything is flush with perfection.

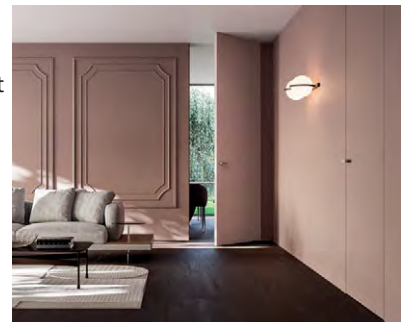
0333 5770828 | www.eclisse.co.uk



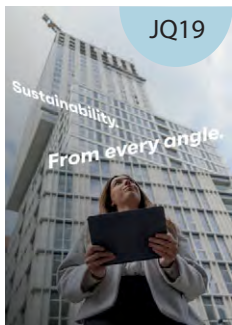
JQ209

On-demand private meeting pods

Edinburgh startup **SWURF** has agreed partnership deals with Edinburgh Airport and Yotel to install its new private meeting pods at the two locations. The SWURF Pod features advanced soundproofing, private Wi-Fi networks with security-grade encryption, smart LED lighting, air filtration systems, and ergonomic seating for those who suddenly find they need a private space for sensitive business calls. Each measuring 1m², users can book slots instantly for 30 minutes or longer through the SWURF platform. The pods are designed to address the modern trend of 'meetings in motion' which was identified as one of the key Business Travel Trends for 2025 by forecasting agency Globetrender.



JQ18



JQ19

Reynaers approach "Sustainability. From Every Angle"

Reynaers Aluminium encourages professionals to look at the building sector's environmental challenges "from every angle". Instead of upholding a narrow view on low-carbon materials, this systems house opens the aperture and promotes a culture of knowledge sharing.

1. Lifecycle thinking – When thinking about the environmental impact of a building, a long-term, whole-of-life perspective is essential. True sustainability will take a much broader perspective to include construction, operation, renovation, disassembly, recycling and more. **2. More than one number** – A narrow focus on the carbon footprint of the raw aluminium is misleading and confusing. Yet far too often, the conversation begins and ends here. Chasing the highest recycled content ratio is a zero-sum gain, as demand far exceeds supply. Reynaers Aluminium believes in "the optimal blend": a fair share of recycled aluminium combined with primary aluminium produced with clean energy. **3. Many dimensions** – Low-impact construction materials are only one part of the story; there are many other dimensions to sustainability. From energy efficiency to extreme weather performance, from eco design to EU Green Deal compliance: Reynaers Aluminium considers every angle in a holistic, long-term approach. **4. Questions, not answers** – Sustainability starts with asking the right questions. Yet not all questions have ready answers. That is why Reynaers Aluminium is committed to open dialogue, where knowledge is shared, assumptions are challenged, and new perspectives are welcome.

www.reynaers.co.uk/sustainability



Pyroguard launches game changing fire-rated balustrade glass range

Pyroguard, the world's leading independent provider of fire safety glass, has developed a thinner, lighter glass specifically for balustrades that achieves A2 fire-rated performance and contains less encapsulated CO₂.

In partnership with Q-railing, a specialist in balustrade systems, the product has been successfully tested and is the first approved balustrade system of its kind to reach the market.

The new Pyroguard Balustrades Evo range has been introduced to meet the growing demand for cost-effective, environmentally responsible glazed balustrade products – without compromising performance or aesthetic appeal. Suitable for both new commercial installations or retrofit projects, the range offers a competitively priced alternative to aluminium railing style solutions.

Pyroguard Balustrades Evo reduces the interlayer thickness from 3 to 1.5mm, matching overall glass thicknesses of standard laminate equivalents – while delivering superior line load capabilities. The range includes streamlined options such as 13.5, 17.5, 21.5 and 25.5mm for 1.5 kN/m line loads – with a weight saving of up to 6%.

The new range also offers a light transmission improvement compared to the existing Pyroguard Balustrades range and an embodied carbon improvement of up to 7.5%. Existing Pyroguard Balustrades glass thicknesses will continue to be available.

Andy Lake, Pyroguard's Sales Director for UK & Ireland, said: "Our new balustrade glazing options are a game-changing innovation. We developed the range to meet market demand for A2 fire-rated glazing panels at standard laminated glass thicknesses to deliver aesthetically pleasing balustrades at a competitive price."

He added: "The new range means balustrade manufacturers do not have to change their existing systems, making design and installation much easier, while also allowing them to use existing stock materials. Ultimately, our thinner, lighter balustrade glass delivers on cost, performance and sustainability."

Darryl Holloway, Architectural Sales Manager, Q-railing explains: "Over the past four years, we have supplied over 5,000 linear metres of fire-rated balconies for high-rise residential projects over 11m, in conjunction with Pyroguard. Pyroguard Balustrades Evo is an extension of our collaboration with the company to bring to market a fire-rated glass balustrade system which is a more commercially viable option for specifiers."

By utilising conventional laminated glass thicknesses, Pyroguard's Balustrades Evo range not only helps systems meet a wider range of budget expectations but also enhances environmental credentials by optimising the glass manufacturing process.

With its A2 fire classification, Pyroguard Balustrades Evo complies with the latest industry standards for fire safety on balconies. For more information about Pyroguard Balustrades Evo please visit <https://www.pyroguard.eu>

 **Pyroguard**
A Saverto Company



get ready for *embodied carbon*

Richard Aylen, Technical Manager at Junckers, takes a look at the new embodied carbon measurements required by the DfE for 200 schools being built over the next five years...

The way a product or material affects global warming is usually measured by the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are generated during its lifetime. For many years the construction industry has been trying to reduce its effect upon global warming.

We use phrases such as net zero carbon and carbon neutral, so let's look at what these terms mean.

A person, company or country is carbon neutral if they balance the carbon dioxide they release into the atmosphere through their everyday activities with the amount they absorb or remove from the atmosphere. This is also called net zero carbon emissions or net zero carbon, because overall no carbon dioxide is added to the atmosphere.

What does carbon neutral mean and what is net zero?

For our discussion, there are two main categories of carbon. The first is operational carbon, which is mainly related to energy used for heating, lighting etc.

We have already made headway in reducing operational carbon through renewable energy and heating our buildings more efficiently. It is becoming harder to find new ways

of reducing operational carbon, so attention is being directed towards reducing embodied carbon. This is the carbon generated when construction products are manufactured, transported, installed and disposed of, and from this you can measure greenhouse gas emissions, and the effect upon global warming.

An understanding of embodied carbon is a useful tool for any specifier who is involved with low carbon design. Until now it was almost unheard of for a client to impose specific limits on embodied carbon, but this is changing.

In Scotland the Scottish Futures Trust scheme for school building includes an upper limit for embodied carbon of 600kg per square metre of floor area. Later this year, in their 2025 Output Specification for new school buildings, England's Department for Education (DfE) will impose a maximum limit of 550kg of embodied carbon per square metre of floor area.

The DfE will also introduce reporting of biogenic carbon levels. Biogenic carbon is locked up in the fabric of the material by biological processes, best illustrated by the way trees collect carbon as they grow. Carbon is stored in the wood itself until it is burned or it decomposes.



If you specify solid wooden floors, which have a very long lifespan, you will be “locking up” carbon for the life of the floor. This cycle of lifetime carbon collection (also known as sequestration) and release does not increase the total amount of carbon in the environment, and this is why timber is often referred to as a carbon neutral material.

This is quite different from the way carbon is bound up in plastics and other crude oil derived materials, such as synthetic floor coverings. Use of crude oil derived products ultimately increases global warming because when they are disposed of carbon is released into the atmosphere that would otherwise have remained locked underground, resulting in a net increase in global warming. For the same reason we are moving away from fossil derived energy sources such as coal and gas.

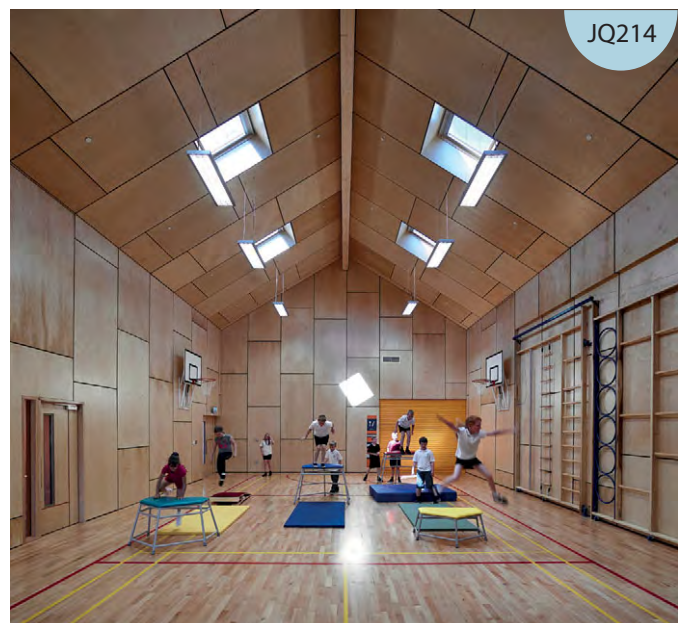
If you want to find out how much embodied carbon a product or material contains, and its effect on global warming, the best information source is an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). An EPD is a lifetime assessment, from raw materials, manufacturing, to final disposal or recycling.

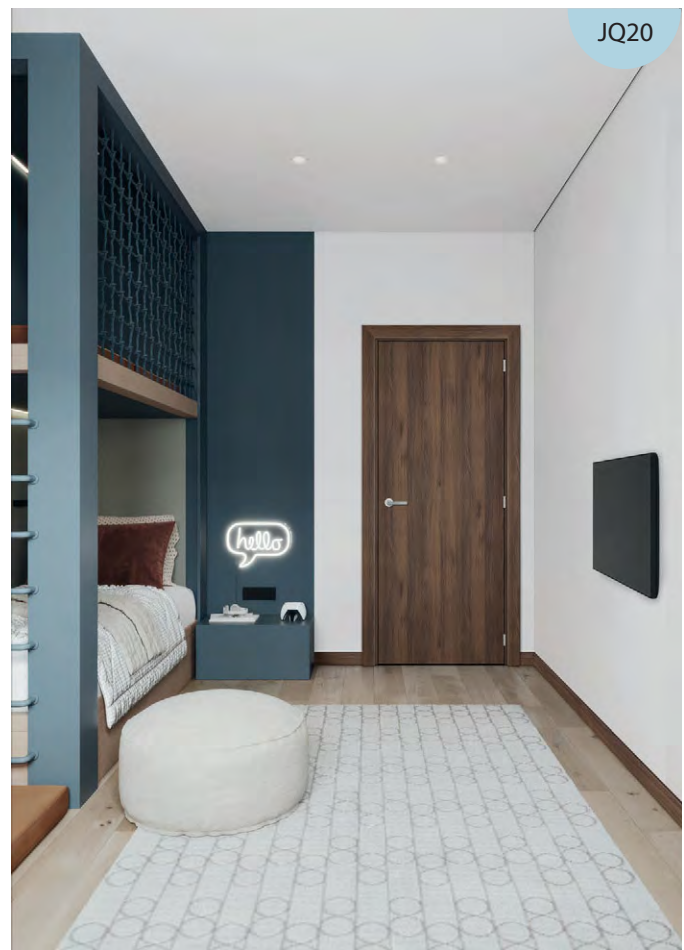
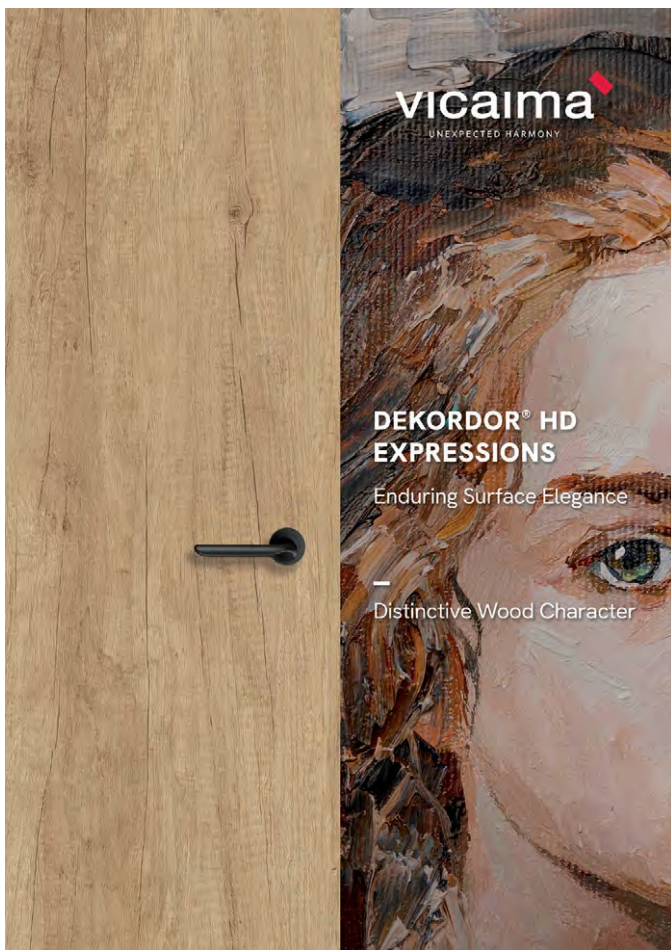
This last factor is one which makes solid hardwood floors attractive to sustainable building designers because they can be refurbished many times over, can often be repurposed, and have a long service life.

We are seeing trends towards re-using older buildings rather than new build. Most of the embodied carbon in a building is contained in its structure and foundations, so it makes little sense to demolish and dispose of the existing structure, only to replace it with new. If you do this, you are releasing the embodied carbon from the old

building (bad for global warming) and then replacing it with new concrete and steel which creates yet more embodied carbon.

Anyone who is involved with construction or estate management will benefit from keeping abreast of this increasingly hot topic, as this will help us to face the global warming challenges that lie ahead.





DEKORDOR HD EXPRESSIONS

Durable laminate doors with distinctive wood character

Vicaima, a major European player in the design and manufacture of advanced interior door solutions, has announced the launch of Dekordor® HD Expressions, a new collection of durable and versatile finishes. Engineered to fuse the authentic beauty of woodlook with additional resilience, the range offers a flexible solution that meets the dual demands of the modern construction market: providing architects and designers with sophisticated aesthetics, while assuring developers, contractors, and property owners of the enduring, certified performance required for any high-quality project.

The Dekordor® HD Expressions range is a statement of character, celebrating the detailed grains, tones and textures that make wood a timeless choice. The collection presents a curated palette of finishes, ranging from distinct, pronounced textures such as HD Wild Oak and Nova Walnut to the clean, smooth surfaces of HD Oak and Citric Walnut. This versatility empowers contractors and interior designers to craft unique interior narratives, from stark modern minimalism to richly layered, textural schemes.

Beyond its visual appeal, the range is engineered to deliver excellent durability across a wide spectrum of demanding environments. The high-density (HD) surfaces offer reliable resistance to scratches, abrasion, stains, and heat, ensuring long-term surface integrity. This robust performance makes it perfectly suited for a myriad of applications where robust solutions are sought, such as in student accommodation, universities, schools or public buildings, while its distinctive wood character brings a sophisticated aesthetic to discerning residential developments, healthcare facilities, and corporate offices.

A key advantage of the Expressions range is its ability to create

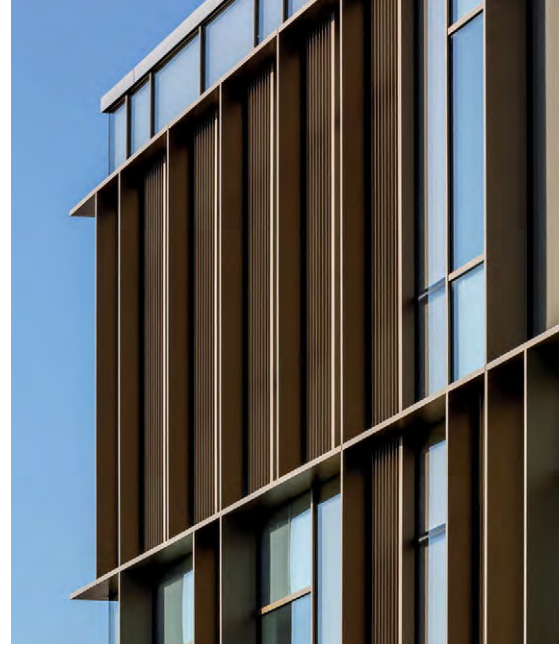
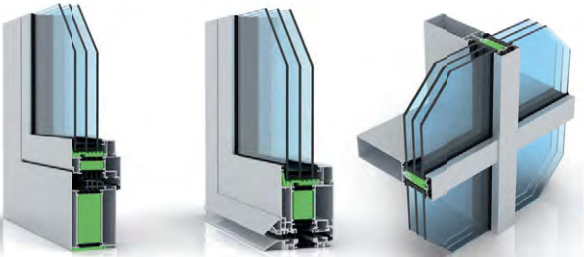
fully coordinated interiors. The finishes can be seamlessly applied across Vicaima's extensive product portfolio, including doors, frames, wall panels, and skirting. Furthermore, these finishes are available on Vicaima's certified performance solutions, including Portaro® and Easi-fit fire-rated (up to 90 minutes), acoustic (up to 45dB), and security door sets (including SBD), enabling an aesthetic continuity that achieves an unexpected harmony between design integrity and technical requirements. All products are FSC® certified, reflecting Vicaima's commitment to sustainable sourcing.

The integration of Dekordor® HD Expressions into Vicaima's portfolio provides a significant advantage for the specification market. It streamlines the design and procurement process by offering a single, reliable source for solutions that are both aesthetically aligned and technically certified. This synergy empowers architects and designers to maintain consistent visual language throughout a project – from residential spaces to high-performance common areas – without the complexity of managing multiple suppliers. Ultimately, it ensures that the specified design intent is perfectly matched with the required



fire, acoustic, and security performance, guaranteeing a result that is cohesive, compliant, and built to last.

Discover the new Dekordor® HD Expressions range at www.vicaima.com



Passive House glazing solutions

Enhancing Education for the next generation

As the UK works to reduce its carbon emissions, there has been an increased demand for new education buildings to meet the Passivhaus standard. Metal Technology continues to lead the way in high insulation, low air permeability glazing systems in the education sector, supplying its **Passive House range of windows, doors and curtain walling** within the primary and secondary education markets. Using a collaborative approach, we can support each project with technical engagement through our qualified Passive House design team.

St Columba's RC & Woodmill High Schools
Dunfermline Learning Campus



Scan QR code to
view our Passive
House brochure

JQ21

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)
[metaltechnology.com](https://www.metaltechnology.com)



Consort Claudgen includes Wi-Fi enabled heaters in LST range

Consort Claudgen offers Wi-Fi-enabled low surface temperature heaters in their LST range, controllable via a digital control panel or the Consort Connect app. Key features include a 7-day timer with 24 daily heating periods, lock function, open window detection, custom automation, and energy consumption statistics.

Models with occupancy sensors feature a self-learning control system that detects and understands a user's weekly presence in a room. It develops a heating schedule and automatically warms the room based on detected or predicted occupancy. When the space is unoccupied, the heater conserves energy by switching to a setback temperature or frost protection mode. Consort's website also offers BIM objects for download.

01646 692172
sales@consortepl.com
www.consortepl.com



Metal Technology driving Passive House innovation in education

The new £65m Currie Community High School in Edinburgh sets a UK first as the only high school with a Passivhaus-certified swimming pool. Built to the rigorous Passivhaus standard, the ultra-low carbon campus provides 1,000 student places across three floors of bright, healthy, and inspiring learning spaces. Alongside state-of-the-art teaching blocks, the school features health and fitness facilities, a café, outdoor play areas, a sensory garden, and public allotments – establishing a true community hub.

The installation of **Metal Technology's** System 5-45 Passive House Tilt & Turn Windows by Avtek contributed to Passivhaus certification by improving thermal efficiency and indoor air quality.

Additional high performance façade and glazing systems from Metal Technology have been seamlessly integrated to meet the school's stringent energy, comfort, and design requirements.

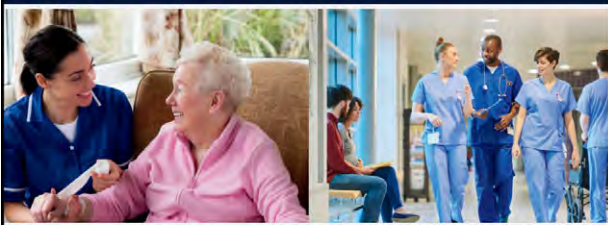
Metal Technology's Passive House glazing systems have been installed across a series of major education projects, now open for the new academic term. Building on this momentum, the company has also secured a pipeline of landmark Passive House projects worth over £10m in installation value, further strengthening its role in delivering sustainable, future-ready learning environments.

www.metaltechnology.com



JQ22

Low Surface Temperature Heaters



Warmth, Safety and Smart Control - All In One

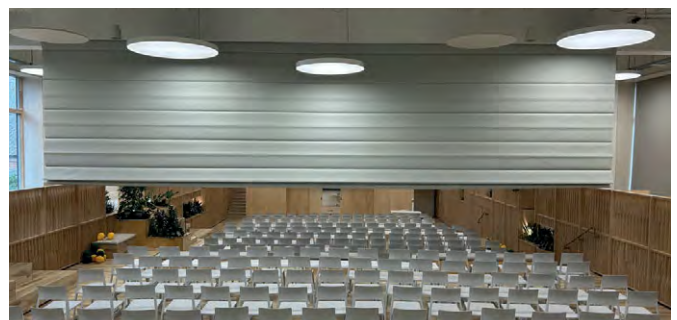
- Available in panel and fan heaters including, slimline models, and towel rails
- Comply with NHS Estates Health Guidance Notes where a maximum surface temperature does not exceed 43°C
- Available in various kW rating
- Various heating control options available:
 - Consort Connect app
 - Integral electronic 7-day timer
 - Run-back time controllers
 - Advanced wireless controllers
- BIM components available for panels and fan heaters

For more details, please contact our Sales.



01646 692172 sales@consortepl.com www.consortepl.com

JQ23



Multiroll divides new teaching space at London College

Working with architect, Studio Dera, and contractor, IMS Building Solutions, **Style** was recently specified to divide the new teaching hall at Waltham Forest College in London, quickly allowing two separate rooms to be created.

Meeting the criteria for a simple, yet highly effective, solution to divide the expansive space, Style recommended its popular Multiroll system.

Practical and affordable, Multiroll is a flexible, vertically rising moveable wall system that safely transforms vast spaces. Being housed in the ceiling when not in use, it takes up no floor space whatsoever, descending gracefully into position at the turn of a key.

Extensive safety testing and size specifications make Multiroll particularly suitable for schools, community centres and leisure facilities, delivering enhanced noise insulation and improved acoustics for large open areas such as gyms, sports halls and high-ceilinged rooms.

www.style-partitions.co.uk

JQ24



Statement stairs

From cascading chandeliers to hand-stitched leather handrails, statement staircases are redefining interiors as show-stopping centrepieces. Whether clad in rich, patinated leather or designed as dramatic, light-filled structures, these bespoke staircases and eye-catching stairwells blend craftsmanship with functionality – elevating both form and experience. Discover how leading British designers **Bill Amberg Studio** and **Cameron Design House** are pushing the boundaries of bespoke staircases, stairwells and lobbies with striking materials and innovative detailing.

camerondesignhouse.com
billamberg.com

JQ216



M Series Step Lift: Enhanced engineering specifications meets contemporary design

Level Access Lifts, the UK distributor for Swedish engineering specialist Tech Line AB, announces design enhancements to its M Series step lift range which now features a seamless glazed door and comes in aluminium silver as a standard finish.

The M Series comprises two models: the M4 step lift with standard through-access configuration, and the M5 step lift featuring doors that open at 90° to provide convenient adjacent access. Both models are now available with a seamless glazed door delivering clean architectural lines for both contemporary and traditional environments.

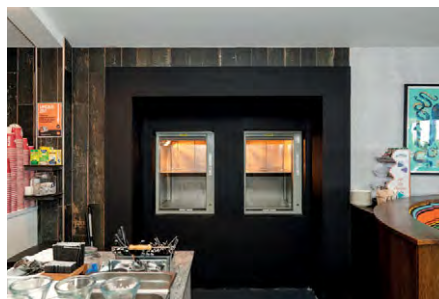
This design development builds on the proven success of the M Series as a versatile low-level access solution for indoor and outdoor applications, providing dependable between-floor travel. The ultra-slim profile and telescopic lifting legs minimise installation footprint, eliminating the need for major structural modification.

Both models feature lightweight aluminium construction, now available in a standard silver or black finish, with bespoke colour matching available. The M4 offers variable platform sizing for diverse layouts, while the M5 provides a generous 1100mm x 1650mm platform with 1020mm clear openings, optimised for enhanced wheelchair manoeuvrability.

<https://levellifts.co.uk/>



JQ217



JQ25

Stannah Lifts dumbwaiters enhances food service efficiency at Beverley Holidays

Beverley Holidays has been a valued Stannah customer for two and a half decades, with **Stannah Lifts** maintaining their 50A model dumbwaiter, which had been in service for 24 years. As part of a recent kitchen refurbishment, Beverley Holidays chose to invest in more modern and reliable dumbwaiter models to improve food service and enhance overall operational efficiency.

Stannah Lifts worked alongside contractors and architects, Gutxi, to install two new dumbwaiters serving the kitchen on the ground floor and the restaurant on the newly extended first floor. As this was a new installation, a prebuilt enclosure was constructed to house the lift and ensure it could be maintained over time. Once the

installation was complete, Stannah returned to site to test, commission and UKCA mark the Microlift dumbwaiters, ensuring their safety for immediate operation.

The goal was to streamline the transit of food from the kitchen to the restaurant and enhance the guest experience, while working closely alongside the construction team and architects to ensure a smooth installation.

One challenge was designing a dumbwaiter solution that would fit within a newly built enclosure attached to the side of the existing clubhouse. After comparing them with the actual built dimensions of the site, the dumbwaiter models originally envisaged for the project were found to be too wide to fit in the available enclosure

space. Therefore, an alternative Microlift model with more compact dimensions was selected to ensure compatibility with the enclosure width.

Stannah Lifts proposed the installation of two 50C dumbwaiters, which were better suited to fit the narrow shaft dimensions. These small service lifts are ideal for pubs, clubs and restaurant settings, enabling the efficient and safe movement of items between floors.

With an upgraded capacity of 100kg and reduced headroom of 2,800mm, as opposed to the original 100B model specified which had a 3,000mm headroom, this kitchen lift solution makes it easy to fit into the space available.

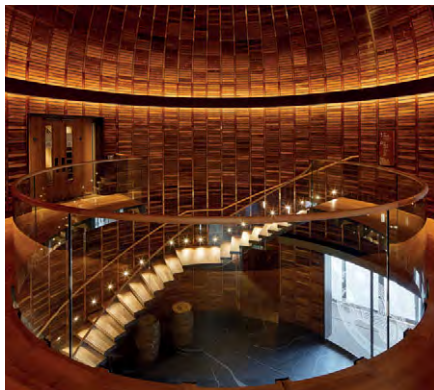
www.stannahlifts.co.uk

elevated thinking: the shifting role of staircases in architecture



*Over the past 30 years, the staircase has undergone a quiet revolution. Once a utilitarian necessity, the modern staircase now occupies a place of architectural prominence – anchoring interiors, influencing spatial flow, and shaping the very atmosphere of a home or commercial space. **Bisca** tells ABC&D more...*

While design preferences are constantly evolving, a look back over the last three decades reveals distinct stylistic shifts, influenced by broader cultural movements, technological advances, and changes in how we perceive and inhabit space.



Artistry meets experimentation – mid 90s

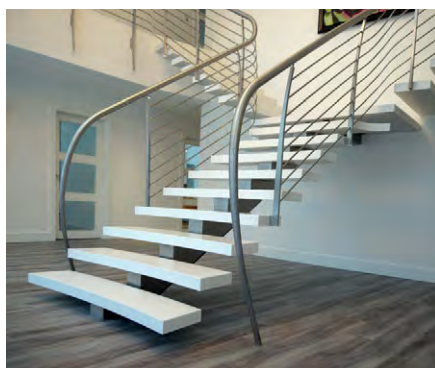
Going back to 1995, staircase design often took one of two divergent paths: highly expressive, organic forms with Art Nouveau or Gaudí-inspired detailing; or



stark, industrial frameworks featuring exposed stainless steel and minimalist components. Despite their stylistic opposition, both approaches embraced sculptural intent and a sense of craftsmanship.

Designs from this era often celebrated fluidity and asymmetry, favouring hand-forged metalwork, flowing lines, and a distinct absence of repetition. Forged balustrades were often complex and deeply decorative, acting more as artwork than architecture.

Examples of the time include staircases such as this Art Nouveau staircase (left) in Newcastle showcasing a celebration of curving ironwork – and the Corian staircase in New York, which exemplified the era's growing interest in material experimentation.



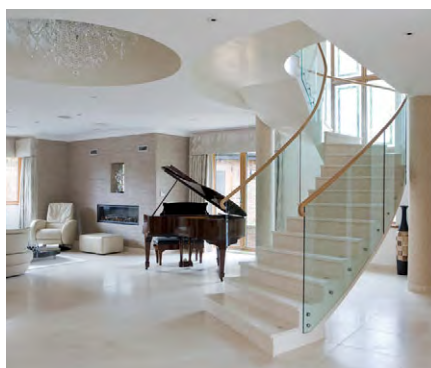
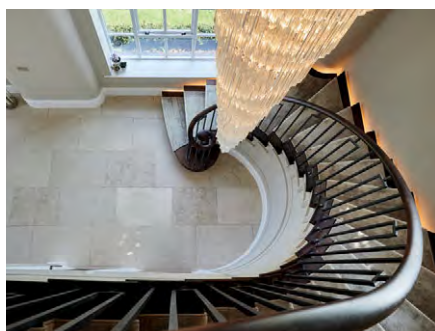
Though expressive and sometimes flamboyant, these designs have stood the test of time. Homeowners continue to enjoy their functionality and form decades later – proof that bold design, when well-executed, never truly dates.

Refined elegance and rising restraint – 2020s



Fast-forward to the present today, and two dominant design directions have emerged: the classical revival and the ultra-modern minimalist.

The classical approach, drawing inspiration from Georgian symmetry, introduces more regulated patterns and decorative restraint. Materials are often warm and familiar – such as oak or wrought iron – but employed in refined and contemporary ways. Staircases like the classical curved oak design below demonstrate how traditional references are now balanced with modern proportions and subtle elegance.



In contrast, ultra-modern styles favour clean lines, minimal material palettes, and an intentional absence of visible fixings. Balustrades are often in glass, capped with slim handrails, creating uninterrupted sightlines and enhancing the perception of open space.

The curved staircase in Middlesex above exemplifies this ethos – visually light, architecturally sharp, and designed to integrate seamlessly with the surrounding architecture.

What's driving the shift in staircase design?

Several factors have influenced this shift in design attitude. First, the explosion of digital media and online platforms has made design inspiration universally accessible. While this has empowered clients with greater awareness, it has also introduced constraints for designers. Thirty years ago, most clients approached a staircase commission with an open mind, relying on the expertise and creativity of the designer. Today, many arrive with curated boards and a strong sense of what they want – placing the designer in a more interpretive role.

Moreover, a growing awareness of longevity in design – both aesthetically and environmentally – has made clients more cautious. Homeowners are increasingly steering away from styles or materials that may feel 'on-trend' but risk

dating quickly. The emphasis has shifted from maximalist detail to timeless execution.

"Clients today are prioritising quality over quantity in design," comments Richard McLane, founder and design director of staircase specialist Bisca. "They're seeking focal points that complement their space rather than dominate it – and materials that age beautifully, not fleetingly."

A subtle return to tradition

Interestingly, while the forged aesthetic still holds appeal, it has evolved from the expressive exuberance of the 90s, into something more ordered and intentional. Rather than replicating Gaudí-like fluidity, clients seeking decorative ironwork now favour subtler, often Georgian-inspired motifs – where symmetry and balance prevail over elaborate flourish.

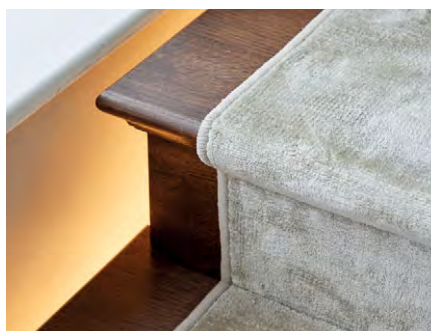
This shift is not a rejection of creativity, but rather a refinement of it. Clients still want sculptural staircases – but with greater architectural harmony, tactile quality, and an enduring relevance to the overall design scheme of the home.

The staircase as an experience

Above all, the staircase is no longer just a means of vertical movement. It is an emotional and spatial experience – an opportunity to create impact, influence flow, and evoke a sense of arrival.

From repurposed canal lock gates to suspended bronze ribbons, today's staircases can be architectural centrepieces or quiet sculptural gestures. What has remained consistent throughout the decades is the desire to create something unique; something that elevates the home and reflects the character of its occupants.

The challenge for architects and designers moving forward is not just to innovate – but to create staircases that balance creativity with context; ambition with authenticity; and design with durability.





navigating the shift: *what specifiers need to know about the new EN fire door rules*

Jim White, Technical Director at Forza Doors, examines the similarities and differences in testing between British BS and EN standards...

The UK Government has confirmed that classifications for fire doors will move from the British National Standards (BS) to European Standards (EN) classifications in September 2029. It's an important development, but, crucially, not one that requires any immediate change in how you currently specify, order or install fire doors.

We are already seeing growing demand for EN-classified products, but in truth, there is no requirement to cease specifying BS-classified fire doors until the new framework takes effect. Doors tested to BS remain fully compliant, safe and approved for use in all projects until at least September 2029 – as long as they are installed before that date.

Why there's no need to panic

Both BS and EN testing utilise rigorous test regimes, and while there are many similarities between the BS and EN resistance to fire tests, there are subtle differences between the two which determine that EN is considered to be more stringent in some respects. However, these differences don't suddenly make BS-tested products less safe.

The BS testing regime has been well proven over decades, and continues to serve the industry well. The internationally recognised EN classifications will provide a far more streamlined,

Continued on page 42...

3000 SERIES

FULL CIRCLE PROTECTION

Simple and intelligent, the 3000 Series provides whole property coverage.



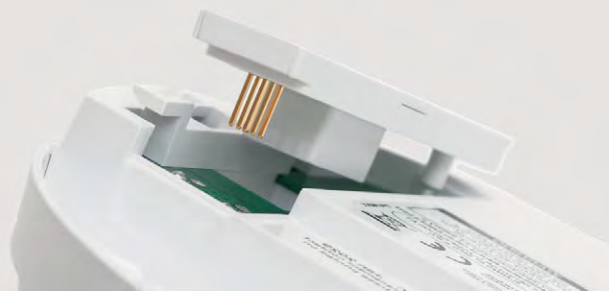
The technologically advanced 3000 Series includes both **Multi-Sensor** and **Single-Sensor** alarms, detecting **Fire** and **Carbon Monoxide** from just one range, while maintaining the simplicity that installers love.

Smart, connected and future-proof.

JQ26



Add the Ei3000MRF for wireless interconnection and data extraction via the Ei1000G Gateway



JQ220



rules-based, singular system which will remove ambiguity from the current regime of testing, assessing and classifying fire doors.

When do you need to act?

The transition period affords specifiers, manufacturers and installers the required time to make adjustments to their testing and classification arrangements, therefore, you don't need to start specifying or ordering EN-classified products until much closer to the transition date. Given the pace of construction, most projects being designed and built now will still be using BS-classified fire doors without any issues.

The key is to maintain a good line of communication with your supplier or manufacturer. They will tell you when it's time to switch specifications and ensure the products you order meet the right standard at the right time.

Lean on your manufacturer for guidance

When the time comes, your manufacturer should be your guide through this change. At Forza Doors, we have already begun

EN testing across our ranges, so we'll be ready well ahead of the deadline. But we're equally committed to helping customers make informed, timely decisions, without unnecessary disruption to projects already in progress.

Ultimately, this change is part of the positive evolution of fire safety standards. It's not a reason to overhaul specifications today, and it's certainly not a cause for panic. Our advice is always to stay in regular contact with your manufacturer and follow their guidance, this way you can always be confident you'll meet compliance requirements – both now and in the future.

The industry's goal remains the same: fire doors that perform exactly as intended, when it matters most.





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Multi-Purpose Sheathing | Bitumen Felt | Capping
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JQ27



AIM Wall Cavity Barrier under zero compression

AIM – Acoustic & Insulation Manufacturing has demonstrated that its Wall Cavity Barrier (Red Edition) provides effective fire performance without compression in masonry construction.

The new zero compression solution means AIM's Wall Cavity Barrier (Red Edition) can be installed easily with green brickwork, or other forms of masonry cladding, and avoids the problem of "brick push off"

which can be associated with barriers installed under compression.

Acting as a fire and smoke barrier for masonry cavity walls, AIM's Wall Cavity Barrier (Red Edition) is used to provide a fully closed cavity fire barrier along compartmentation lines in the external cavity wall in a wide variety of construction types, including masonry and SFS.

The different barrier thicknesses of 75mm,

100mm and 125mm provide 30, 60 and 120-minute fire ratings to BS EN 1366-4.

Applicable to masonry construction only, zero compression installation has been tested horizontally and vertically for use within voids up to 400mm. The barrier is installed and then the bricks built up against its edge. Once the mortar has set, AIM Acrylic Intumescent Mastic should be applied between the barrier and both substrates. A DPC separating layer can be included if required.

"Tests have demonstrated that the AIM Wall Cavity Barrier is effective without compression in masonry voids, a significant product enhancement that offers far greater flexibility during construction," explains Ian Exall, AIM's Commercial Director.

The high-density foil faced stone wool barrier also reduces airborne transmission of sound by a minimum of 21dB RW.

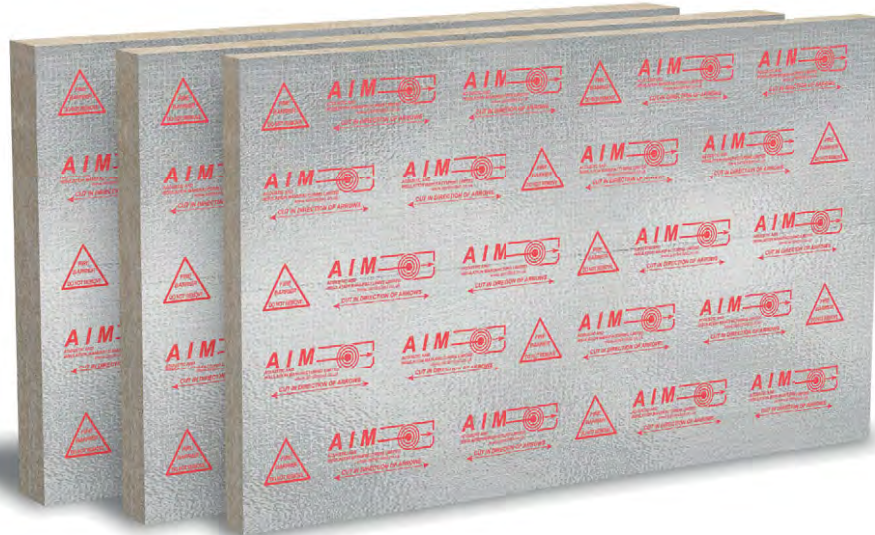
AIM will sell slab versions of the Wall Cavity Barrier (Red Edition) for zero compression applications – not cut barrier. This is so that the installer has total flexibility in sizing of the barrier to exactly suit the cavity void size as required.

Installation details, with a step by step guide, can be found in AIM's Wall Cavity Barrier (Red edition) Technical Guide, which can be downloaded at:

<https://www.aimlimited.co.uk/solutions/wall-cavity-barrier/>

Part of the Performance Technology Group, UK-based AIM - Acoustic & Insulation Manufacturing has over 30 years of experience in the design, testing and manufacturing of high-quality fire, thermal and acoustic barriers.

The company produces a wide variety of bespoke insulation products to customer specification and a range of standard products.



www.aimlimited.co.uk
sales@aimlimited.co.uk

JQ222

Experts in advanced glazing systems.

Astraseal are specialist fabricators of premium uPVC and aluminium glazing systems. Operating from three manufacturing sites, totalling 110,000 square feet, our comprehensive and premium quality selection of products allows us to meet the fenestration needs of any project.

SPD is a dedicated department within Astraseal, providing revolutionary new glazing fenestration solutions for large scale multi-room, high-rise building projects, with an experienced team of knowledgeable CAD technicians, architects, structural engineers, façade specialists and fully qualified site managers.



Why choose Astraseal...



Experts in Advanced Glazing Systems

We specialise in high-performance glazing for both commercial and high-rise buildings, offering cutting-edge solutions for aesthetic and energy-efficient façades.



Professional Installation & Project Management

Full-service installation with an experienced team, ensuring efficient project execution from design to completion, on time and within budget.



Customized Glazing Solutions

Tailored glazing designs that meet specific project needs, from structural glazing to curtain wall systems, ensuring the perfect fit for any building style.



Modern Technology & Tools

State of the Art manufacturing facilities, full production control within our 3 premises in Northamptonshire.



Noise Reduction

Offer soundproof glazing options to minimize exterior noise pollution, ideal for urban locations or buildings near transportation hubs.



In House Architect & Design Service

Dedicated department which includes certified architects, CAD technicians and façade specialists.



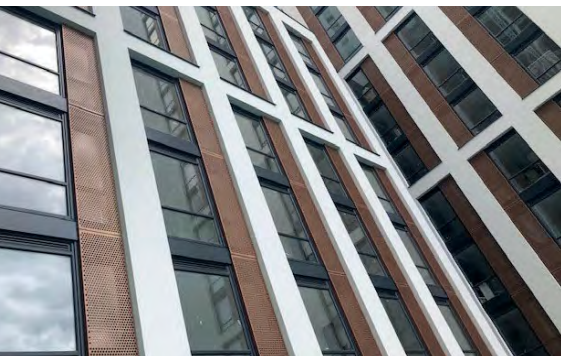
Innovative Facade Design

Integrate creative design elements like glass fins, balustrades, pressings and decorative panelling features to add a modern, visually striking aspect to building façades.



At your service

Partnerships formed with structural engineers, acoustic consultants and relevant industry test houses for involvement to suit project requirements.





JQ223

Innovative facade glazing system for luxury cruise liners

Novum Structures, a specialist marine contractor in glass, steel and ETFE, and **Pyroguard**, independent provider of fire safety glass,

have worked in partnership to design a fire-rated, clear-view façade glazing system that is fully tested and accredited to meet A30 and A60 fire resistance criteria for use on cruise liners. The innovative solution was developed for the Royal Caribbean Group and first used as part of its latest 'Wonder of the Seas' liner.

Novum Structures approached Pyroguard to support the company in meeting the challenges and specific requirements of the project. The requirement was to produce glazed wall panels and a clear-view façade which complied with fire safety standards, whilst meeting aesthetic requirements and achieving a lightweight design.

Pyroguard's glazing system had to deliver exceptional fire resistance while maintaining a clear-view façade glazing system without obstructing frame elements. Specifically, it had to meet A30 and A60 fire-resistance criteria.

The Pyroguard and Novum glazing solution achieved IMO MED (International Maritime Organisation Marine Equipment Directive) certifications, which ensure the system meets strict fire and safety performance for marine applications.

www.pyroguard.eu

A call for greater emphasis on fire door inspections to safeguard escape routes

Door Group, a division of **ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions UK & Ireland**,

is urging building owners, facilities managers and duty holders to prioritise regular, professional fire door inspections to ensure escape routes remain safe and compliant.

Fire doorsets play a critical role in protecting lives by containing fire and smoke, maintaining compartmentation, and safeguarding escape routes. However, even the best-quality, certified products can fail in an emergency if they are damaged, incorrectly installed, or poorly maintained.

As part of its commitment to fire safety, Door Group offers a comprehensive inspection service carried out by BRE-certified inspectors. Tailored to suit specific building requirements, inspections can be scheduled every three, four, six or twelve months.

Each inspection delivers a detailed report with practical recommendations, from remedial works to replacement where necessary, ensuring escape routes remain fully compliant and operational.

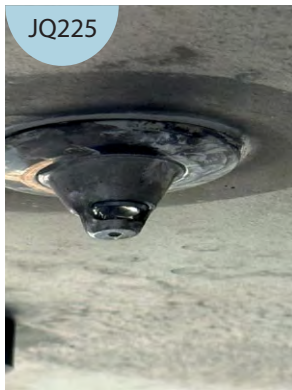
For more information on ASSA ABLOY Door Group, visit

<https://bit.ly/4pOG3MS>

info@assaabloy.com



JQ224



JQ225

Electrical fire in child's bedroom extinguished by iMist Fire Suppression System

On 13 August 2025 at 9:13 am, a call was made to the fire service after an electrical fire broke out in a child's bedroom in a timber-frame home occupied by a lone parent and their dependants. The fire was caused by a faulty electric fuel supply, which first ignited the bed and mattress. Thanks to the rapid activation of an **iMist** Fire Suppression System, the blaze was confined to the bedroom, allowing the family to evacuate safely. The fire brigade mobilised at 9:20 am and arrived on scene at 9:34 am with two appliances, but by that time the fire had already been contained. All occupants escaped unharmed, and the rest of the house remained protected, demonstrating how effective early fire suppression can be in safeguarding lives and property in occupied homes.

"The safety and well-being of residents is always our top priority," said Alex Pollard, Operations Director at iMist Fire Suppression. "The iMist system not only allowed the family to escape safely but fully extinguished the fire, saving lives and protecting property with minimal disruption."

www.imist.com

Astraseal: Advanced Fabrication for Modern Fenestration

Astraseal is a leading manufacturer of high-performance uPVC and aluminium glazing systems, supplying premium products to the trade. Operating from three state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities covering 110,000ft², Astraseal delivers a wide-ranging portfolio designed to meet the demands of virtually any fenestration project.

In response to the growing needs of large-scale developments, Astraseal has recently introduced the REHAU Artevo System – an innovative glazing solution engineered for exceptional performance. This advanced system features profiles reinforced with integrated glass fibres, offering superior strength without compromising on slim, modern sightlines. The fibre technology also enhances acoustic insulation, significantly boosts thermal efficiency, and supports the use of larger, heavier glass panes. Complementing the Artevo system, Astraseal is now an approved fabricator and installer of the Skyforce Juliet Balcony – a sleek, minimalist solution that blends seamlessly into architectural designs. The Skyforce system integrates effortlessly with modern buildings, offering both aesthetic appeal and structural reliability. Both the Artevo and Skyforce systems further strengthen Astraseal's comprehensive portfolio of British-manufactured products, which includes REHAU and Eurocell uPVC systems, fully certified fire-rated windows and doors, and a diverse array of aluminium glazing solutions – from doors and screens to curtain walling.

www.astraseal.co.uk



JQ29

Why follow British Standards?



BSI (British Standards Institution) were established in 1901 to promote trade, reduce waste and to protect the consumer by using recognised conformity markers. The BSI Kitemark was then adopted two years later. The BSI was granted Royal Charter status in 1929, making it one of the most recognised standard issuers and a champion for consumers. The Kitemark is used as a way of judging whether a process

or product is at the required level to ensure safety.

There are currently over 30,000 live standards, including the following:

- BS 5839-6: Code of practice for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of fire detection and fire alarm systems in domestic premises.
- BS EN 50292: A guide on the selection, installation, use and maintenance

JQ30

of electrical apparatus for the detection of Carbon Monoxide in domestic premises, caravans and boats.

Why follow British Standards?

Following British Standards provides a mechanism to gauge whether a service or product is fit for purpose. Without it, it would be impossible to verify whether a system is suitable or able to operate as required in emergency conditions. Following the British Standards and the product manufacturer's instructions, ensures that the installation is correct and of high quality.

Aico continue to follow British Standards when manufacturing products, providing recommendations and delivering training. They are there to give guidance, offer advice and provide a best practice document to align training programmes with.

How to apply British Standards

Table 1 in BS 5839-6 describes the grade of alarm and category of coverage required within a domestic dwelling to reach the standard, which is a great place to start when carrying out a domestic installation. Whilst British Standards provides useful information, it is essential to take the resident's individual needs into account.

To find out more visit www.aico.co.uk

FIREFLY Phoenix curtain specified to protect warehouse

Part of an international supply chain and logistics business, a vast warehouse in the Medway area of Kent enclosing almost 380,000ft² of storage space, has had its fire performance upgraded by a regular **FIREFLY**® customer utilising the manufacturer's Phoenix barrier material together with the recently launched 180 ablative batt and ancillary products to create a curtain running around the building perimeter.

The work at the Noatum Logistics ePort warehouse on the Isle of Grain was carried out by T and R Fire Protection over a five-week period earlier this year, with its operatives using a variety of access approaches to attach the lightweight Phoenix barriers to roof purlins and floor beams. FIREFLY's high temperature adhesive and special staples were used to secure the 150mm overlaps between lengths of the Phoenix material, as well as to secure the curtains to the lengths of steel angle and heavier section Unistruts.

The Site Manager for T & R Fire Protection, Tom Port-Smith, commented: "While we regularly put forward FIREFLY systems for a variety of applications as our 'go to' manufacturer for fire compartmentation, in this case the clients, Noatum/Dexion actually specified Phoenix on the basis of having successfully used it for past projects. We get good technical support from the company whenever we need special details and the installation at the Medway premises went smoothly with the barriers being attached right around four floors and a walkway across a total distance of 600m."

Andy Greenwood, the Technical Sales Manager for FIREFLY®, explained how the relatively short Phoenix fire curtain offers a form of compartmentation in such situations: "A 300mm fire

break, around the perimeter of a warehouse, is a standard fire safety measure. This means the 300mm wide band of fire-resistant material is used to separate different sections of the building – which typically house large amounts of flammable material – helping to contain a fire and prevent it from spreading. This is crucial for both life safety in allowing time for evacuation, and property protection: limiting damage and loss to the area where the fire starts."

Manufactured from woven and non-woven glass, the FIREFLY range is designed to optimise resistance to flame and smoke as well as offer heat protection in a wide range of scenarios.

www.tbafirefly.com



JQ31

Algeco UK shines a spotlight on safety at special summit

Algeco UK has reinforced its commitment to making sure safety remains a number one priority by hosting a one-day Safety Summit aimed at tackling near miss incidents.

The event, which was attended by Algeco UK's network of third-party contractors, customers and industry leaders including Costain, Brookdale Transport, Scottish Power and the Association of Lorry Loader Manufacturers and Importers (ALLMI) took place on September 11.

Between July last year and June this year, the company completed more than 60,000 jobs UK-wide, 60% of which were delivered with the help of its trusted third-party suppliers. Minimising risk and embedding a zero harm culture is central to Algeco UK's everyday operations, which includes proactively working to help prevent accidents through its focus on near miss incidents

Mike Shakeshaft, Algeco UK's HSE Director, said: Near miss incidents – especially those of a more serious nature – may not result in immediate harm,

but they carry the potential to cause serious injury. It's crucial that we, together with our partners, give these incidents our full attention.

"They should never be seen as minor or benign, but as vital opportunities to prevent future tragedies, strengthen safety practices and build a safer, more resilient culture."

Held in Coventry, the Safety Summit shared highly practical insight on the measures that can be taken to identify and avoid near miss incidents across four main risk areas – high voltage powerlines, unsecured items in transit, lift plan, controls and load security, and compliance/assurance.

Mike concludes: "We're extremely proud of the relationships we've built and value our suppliers as some of the very best in the industry. Safety is everyone's common goal – by bringing these industry leaders together, we're collectively striving to achieve our vision of zero harm."

www.algeco.co.uk



Brett Martin's rooflights provide a safe solution for Suez's rebuilt recycling plant

Brett Martin's Safelight GRP rooflights have been installed alongside photovoltaic (PV) panels at one of SUEZ's recycling plants, as part of an extensive rebuild and upgrade. The Aberdeen based facility was particularly re-assured by the robustness of Safelight 40mm GRP, which is classified as non-fragile meaning it can be installed without additional safety railings. The installation has cut costs, without compromising on safety for the plant's maintenance staff.

Key to the new design proposed by architects MacLeod Jordan was the inclusion of both rooflights and roof mounted PV panels. In combination these would maximise the amount of natural light in the space, reduce the need for daytime

artificial light and ensure the plant could generate its own renewable energy.

When considering the roof, a number of solutions were discounted before Brett Martin was approached. With the safety of the maintenance teams tasked with the upkeep of the PV panels top of mind, Safelight 40mm Double Skin GRP was ideal. The heavyweight GRP panels are specifically designed for applications where frequent or unlimited access to the roof is required. With a Class B to ACR[M]001 non-fragility rating, there is no need for additional safety railings to be installed around each rooflight – removing a time consuming and costly process.

With a long lifespan of over 30 years,

Safelight panels offer an excellent long-term solution for industrial projects of all kinds. Thanks to their 'diamond' surface, they are resistant to both mechanical weathering and UV radiation, all while retaining excellent diffused light transmission. What's more, with its archive of historic roofing profiles and the ability to create custom moulds, Brett Martin was able to match the shape of the Kingspan RW Composite Panel used for the roof. This created a seamless in plane finish and aided installation.

To find out more about Brett Martin's rooflight sheets go to www.brettmartin.com/daylight-systems/our-products/rooflight-sheets-insulation

Introducing new BAL AF Max – removing the need for uncoupling mats

BAL AF Max - Removing the need for uncoupling mats

Tile Adhesive 20kg x12 = 30m Uncoupling Mat = 4 BAL AF Max

LOWEST SYSTEM COST
40% LOWER COST

FASTEST INSTALLATION
70% TIME SAVING

LOWEST MATERIAL WEIGHT
70% LESS MATERIAL WEIGHT

ONLY 4 BAGS PER 30m²
NO MAT OR ADDITIONAL ADHESIVE REQUIRED

JQ32

BAL has launched a new innovation into the tiling market which performs as an uncoupling and fixing system in one.

New BAL AF Max is a highly flexible rubber-crumb adhesive that removes the need for uncoupling mats on problematic substrates.

BAL AF Max has anti-fracture technology that absorbs lateral stress movement from the floor protecting tiles from failures. No other products are needed – just mix and fix.

A high-yield tile adhesive, you can get up to 8.5m² per bag,

meaning only four bags are needed for a 30m² area. This compares with 12 bags of tile adhesive and a 30m roll of uncoupling mat for a traditional uncoupling install.

BAL has calculated that based on a 30m² install (the average length of a roll of uncoupling mat), BAL AF Max will save fixers and contractors approximately 40% in material costs, 70% in time saving and 70% less material weight.

BAL AF Max has a pot life of 45 minutes and can be grouted in five hours. Crucially it can be used with most tile types, including certain natural stone, and can be used on a variety of substrates including but not limited to; cement:sand screeds, anhydrite screeds, concrete, bitumen adhesive residues, flooring grade asphalt, glazed ceramic tiles, Existing Thermoplastic Vinyl Tiles/Sheets (Marley Tiles), T&G floorboards and plywood overlays and even steel.

AF Max is also a sustainable adhesive – made with 30% recycled content by weight. It removes the need for plastic uncoupling or anti-fracture mats and has lower lifecycle costs with BAL's 25 Year Warranty.

BAL AF Max also supports BAL's Cool Earth partnership, helping to protect the rainforest.

To support the launch of BAL AF Max, BAL are also launching a new large red 30ltr mixing bucket – this will assist fixers and contractors with the larger volume of mixed material.

Find out more about this game-changing product visit www.bal-adhesives.com

FP McCann lays down the foundations for innovative Midlothian social housing scheme

FP McCann's precast concrete T-Beam and Block flooring system has been installed as part of a £17.5 million state-of-the-art social housing project in the Midlothian village, Gorebridge. Leading Scottish housebuilder Cruden is underway with the unique residential development that will deliver a diverse range of housing options, including 75 flats, cottage flats and houses. Notably, the scheme will feature 10 extra care units, 2 bariatric units and a 4-bedroom, 6 person wheel-chair accessible house.

Cruden has been working closely with partners Midlothian Council and architect Hackland & Dore to ensure the design of the development is tailored to meet the diverse needs of the Gorebridge community and the end result will be an impressive residential site with accessibility, sustainability and community at its core.

In addition to the innovative heat-pump heating solutions, the homes will feature advanced insulation techniques. High-performance insulation will ensure that the homes are energy-efficient, maintaining

comfortable indoor temperatures year-round while reducing energy consumption and utility costs for tenants.

Contributing to the advanced heating and insulation features on the project to ensure that the homes are energy efficient and aligned with Scotland's ambitious aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote sustainable and renewable energy, FP McCann's precast concrete T-Beam and Block flooring has been specified as a single span system across the brickwork foundation layer. The tried and tested beam and block process not only provides a solid and safe working platform, but also a floor that has excellent thermal insulation, fire resisting and noise reducing properties.

The FP McCann pre-stressed reinforced precast concrete T-Beams are 150mm deep with single span lengths of 5375mm. Standard building blocks are simply placed between beam spans to complete the floor.

Commenting on the T-Beam and Block flooring, Willie Marshall Senior Site Manager for Cruden says, "This offsite manufactured precast concrete foundation flooring



JQ33

system is quick and simple to install. It speeds up the build process as it allows for groundworks to continue uninterrupted during inclement weather. Reducing the requirement for ready mixed concrete and mortar at foundation level is a major benefit in the early stages of the build".

<https://fpmccann.co.uk/>



flooring trends: what's 'in' and what's to *come*?

*When it comes to interior design, trends have a major role to play, influencing the colours, patterns and materials specified. Having an understanding of current trends can be key to ensuring the spaces you're designing meet modern requirements. Read on as, **Laura Walker**, Flooring and Decorative Senior Specialist at EGGER UK, explores some of the latest flooring trends in the market...*

Trends are an integral part of the architectural and interior design world, feeding into and influencing the specification choices you make, as well as helping ensure the built environment is meeting modern expectations. Whether it be design or functionality, it's important that you are up to speed with how the industry is evolving.

Q) What are some of the key flooring trends in the market?

There has been a shift away from traditional grey tones, with trending colour palettes beginning to 'warm up'. This is making way for colours such as 'greige', a playful blend of grey and beige, creating more natural, stone effect tile decors. Warmer woodgrain tones, such as honey, are also back. This is part of a long-term trend

that we're seeing, where homeowners are looking to make their interiors inviting, cosier and almost cocoon like.

We're seeing homes become more than just a functional space, with well-being becoming a bigger priority, as seen through the changing colour trends on the market. Supporting this is a move away from rustic designs incorporating wood knots and cracks in laminate flooring, with the Scandinavian feel of simplistic linear woodgrains dominating the flooring market.

Real wood is starting to be phased out for more cost-effective solutions, this change is encouraging a shift towards more realistic and tactile laminate designs. Matt products are also more desirable, further enhancing the realism and durability trends seen today.



Tile-effect laminate flooring has also become a prominent trend, offering a more cost-effective alternative to traditional tiled products. With this demand comes a more functional need for water-resistant flooring in these tiled decors, supporting its use across kitchens and bathrooms.

Another enduring trend is herringbone flooring. A popular design choice for many years, this is one trend that we aren't seeing disappear any time soon. Many manufacturers are homing in on this, offering easy to lay herringbone and chevron solutions that allow DIY'ers to get involved too.

Q) What about sustainability?

Definitely not a 'trend' so to speak, but sustainability is, of course, a major consideration for architects, specifiers and end users. There is an increasing drive for more sustainable building materials, that incorporate recycled and renewable content. This is propelling wood-based products, such as EGGER's Flooring Collection 25+, into the spotlight, because of its renewable and sustainable qualities.

Q) How are these trends collated?

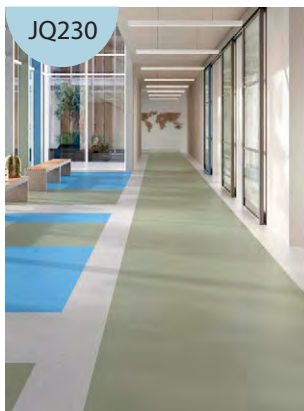
First and foremost, it's important that we analyse the trends in architectural development and interior design, and the ways in which a specific product, such as flooring, is being used by customers. By studying this, design teams can build a clearer picture of the current trends and begin to form ideas of how they can support these.

Another effective way design teams can gather trend information is by visiting trade shows and speaking to other interior finish providers, looking at the products they offer and what they're

developing. By meeting manufacturers, designers can gain a more rounded perspective on the types of products their own offering will be specified and installed alongside.

Once this research is compiled, it can be shared and used by teams around the world to ensure that the collections they're creating meet the needs of their customer-base. By paying close attention to these trends, architects and designers can help to better meet the needs of their clients, ensuring that sustainability, function and design are all equally balanced to create better spaces.





Optimum looks from Optimise 70

Making commercial spaces quieter with 19dB of impact noise reduction, Optimise 70 acoustic sheet vinyl from **IVC Commercial** is now available in striking new looks, joining enduring favourites for a refreshed design palette that's ready to take on current and future interior trends. Bold new purples and brighter blues, warmer yellows and oranges bring a future-forward colour palette with the texture of Noemi adding a softer, organic edge to complement texture rich interior schemes. Ritmo is an abstract design that adds an extra dimension in functional grey and blue. With 40 designs to select from, all commercial projects can find something suitable in Optimise 70.

Unilin Flooring updates the Moduleo LayRed range

Unilin Flooring has launched the updated Moduleo LayRed engineered vinyl flooring range, bringing performance improvements, a more natural look and new wood, tile and herringbone designs. New LayRed comes equipped with Hydroseal that combines with the precision fit of Uniclic to create a surface that water simply can't penetrate: LayRed is now 100% waterproof. Scratch resistance has also been markedly improved with the Protectonite Plus excimer coating. With added anti-abrasive protection it reduces micro scratches and heightens appearance thanks to an ability to show different gloss levels without losing its matt effect. Moduleo has also improved the bevel of LayRed with the floor now using a milled bevel that takes the pattern all the way to the edge.



Flooring that helps homes reduce environmental impact

As housing providers place increasing focus on the sustainability of specifications, **Beauflor** sheet vinyl can offer tangible advantages when it comes to the choice of flooring, even when managing tight budgets and high expectations. The durability of Beauflor's sheet vinyl can provide a long domestic life and with a water-resistant and easy to clean surface that doesn't harbour dirt and bacteria, there's no need to replace them at change of tenancy. This means a longer replacement cycle and reduced consumption of flooring over the lifetime of housing stock.



Perfect blend of old and new

The interior at the restored Rosebank Distillery strikes the perfect blend between old and new, including combining **Junckers** solid Oak flooring in several spaces with restored original timber and beams. Designed and redeveloped by architects MLA, the landmark building is once again a working distillery with a new visitor centre, an academy, retail space, offices and staff rooms.

The restoration combines a blend of old and new to balance building preservation with modern building regulations as well as guidance from Historic Scotland. The redevelopment has secured the long-term future of the site and modernised the buildings with robust and durable materials. Fitted in the tasting rooms and circulation areas, Junckers Oak Variation plank flooring, a rustic grade solid hardwood floor that aligns with the heritage character of the original building, and Oak Herringbone are hard-wearing surfaces that can be expected to last for 60+ years.

www.junckers.co.uk | sales@junckers.co.uk

Dulux Colours of the Year Collection 2026

For 2026, **Dulux** is asking architects, specifiers and designers to dance to the Rhythm of Blues with its new trio of shades. For the first time ever, Dulux has selected a colour family of the year. The harmonious collection of signature indigos reflects various moods, making them suitable for any setting.

The Dulux Colours of the Year 2026 are three versatile blues: From the timeless, soothing qualities of Mellow Flow to the meditative, calm and grounding nature of Slow Swing, and the vibrant, exciting and uplifting Free Groove there is a shade to suit any brief. Used individually or in combination, the Colours of the Year 2026 offer professionals the flexibility to create multiple expressions of energy, mood and pace across every sector.

duluxtrade.co.uk/cf26



FASSAFILL GROUTS

THE BEAUTY IS IN THE DETAILS



28 colours



28 colours



31 colours



14 colours



16 colours



transparent + 17 colours

FASSAFILL COLOURS

We are proud to present our range of floor laying materials, including top-quality grouts, sealants and silicones. The finishing touch to a perfect floor.

— FASSAFILL SMALL 0 ↔ 5 mm

— FASSAFILL MEDIUM 2 ↔ 12 mm

— FASSAFILL LARGE 5 ↔ 20 mm

— FASSAFILL RAPID 2 ↔ 20 mm

Water-repellent cementitious grout with high mechanical strength, abrasion resistance and resistance to mould and algae.

— FASSAFILL EPOXY 1 ↔ 10 mm

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about Fassa Bortolo and its range of flooring systems and building products.

Visit www.fassabortolo.co.uk

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JQ34



**FASSA
BORTOLO**

Cormar Carpets relaunches Natural Berber Twist

Cormar Carpets is pleased to announce the relaunch of its classic wool twist pile carpet, Natural Berber Twist, now available in five additional new colourways.

Originally launched in 2009, Natural Berber Twist has long been a favourite for both retailers and consumers thanks to its natural, flecked appearance and exceptional versatility. Now offering even greater value for money, the collection has been reimagined with the introduction of five new shades: Parchment, Limewood, Macaroon, Medlar and Troutbeck – each inspired by nature and perfect for creating a warm, country-style ambience.

Manufactured using a robust 80% Wool, 10% Nylon and 10% Tuftbond blend, Natural Berber Twist is both comfortable and hard-wearing, making it ideal for use all around the home. It's also mothresistant and comes with a supporting 10-Year Wear Warranty for added peace of mind.

Natural Berber Twist is available in

two luxurious pile weights:

- Elite – featuring a 45oz pile weight
- Deluxe – with a denser 55oz pile weight for added comfort and luxury

Both options are offered in 4 and 5m widths, ensuring a seamless finish in any room. Whether refurbishing a busy hallway, a family living space or a cosy bedroom for a residential project, Natural Berber Twist provides a timeless foundation that stands up to the demands of everyday life while delivering warmth and comfort underfoot.

"We're delighted to be relaunching our Natural Berber Twist collection with five brand new nature inspired shades which we're confident will prove popular additions for interior design professionals and our retail partners" said David Cormack,

Marketing Director. "Appreciated for its natural, flecked appearance and exceptional versatility, this range is both luxuriously comfortable and incredibly hard-wearing."

www.cormarcarpets.co.uk



Fassa Bortolo: Colour consistency across grouts and silicones



When it comes to finishing a project, detail is everything. **Fassa Bortolo** understands that the perfect finish relies not only on the quality of the product but also on the harmony of colour. That's why its extensive range of grouts and silicones is designed to work seamlessly together, offering consistent shades that enhance both the durability and aesthetics of any installation.

The Fassa Bortolo colour palette has been carefully curated to complement a wide spectrum of tiles and surfaces, from classic neutrals to contemporary tones. Whether it's a subtle shade that blends effortlessly or a bold accent that defines a design, the range ensures specifiers and installers can achieve a flawless, unified look.

What sets Fassa Bortolo apart is the precision in colour matching across its grout and silicone lines. This consistency avoids the common issue

of mismatched finishes, ensuring every joint and seal contributes to the overall visual integrity of the project.

Durable, reliable, and versatile, Fassa Bortolo's grouts and silicones provide not only technical excellence but also design freedom, giving professionals the confidence to deliver finishes that are as beautiful as they are resilient.

Got a question? We are only a call away. For more information on how our range of grouts and silicones can enhance your projects, please don't hesitate to contact us at info.fassauk@fassabortolo.com or 01684 218 305.



JQ35

New urban oasis created at the Natural History Museum

The previously underused 5-acre gardens around the Natural History Museum in London have been remarkably transformed in a scheme by architects Feilden Fowles. Working closely with landscape architects J & L Gibbons, and a design team including Gitta Gschwendtner, engineers HRW and Max Fordham, a new urban oasis has been created alongside a Nature Activity Centre supported by AWS and Garden Kitchen café. The project rejuvenates the grounds of this well-loved museum and creates an immersive timeline of the evolution of the earth which is now fully accessible for the first time. Geological eras are represented in banded strata of rock and the garden now features a full-size bronze Diplodocus called Fern. The result is a tactile living laboratory called the Urban Nature Project.

The Nature Activity Centre and Garden Kitchen blend in harmony with the green space and have been designed in close association with the museum's scientists with thought and care, using natural materials with low embodied carbon. The frame is created from UK limestone under a Douglas fir roof with cedar shingles. Douglas fir doors, windows and columns adorn the inside. Working with acoustic consultants Max Fordham, **Troldtekt** wood wool acoustic panels have been utilised through the ceilings to help combat reverberating sound and create a calm and welcoming atmosphere.

Troldtekt's wood wool acoustic panels are Cradle to Cradle Certified® at Gold level and manufactured using wood from certified forests (PEFC/09-31-030 and FSC®C115450), positively contributing to a building's BREEAM, WELL or LEED points. Panels can also



JQ36

be manufactured with **FUTURECEM®** which achieves an approx. 30% lower carbon footprint than that of Troldtekt based on white cement. Depending on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively.

Available in a wide variety of different structures and colours, they combine optimal sound absorption with an award-winning design. The Troldtekt range has a minimum expected life cycle of 60 years coupled with excellent resistance to humidity and tested to meet ball impact standards. Panels can be supplied as natural wood, unpainted based on **FUTURECEM** offering a reduced carbon footprint or finished in almost any RAL or NCS colour.

www.troldtekt.co.uk



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JQ37



style and substance:

designing public realm paving with beauty and practicality in mind

*Urban landscapers often face a tall order when looking at landscaping in public realm schemes, with paving being part of the solution: providing resilient environments in high footfall spaces, while still achieving a beautiful finish. While these feel like they are opposing needs, **Joanne Roberts**, Head of Product Management, Concrete Products Holcim UK, discusses why one need not come at the expense of the other..*

Beautiful. Cost-effective. Durable. Complementary. Sustainable. Environmentally sympathetic. The last two, focusing on the impact of both design and solution, on the natural environment, both in material make-up, and in ongoing water management and flood prevention. These are the elements urban landscapers must balance when designing for sustainability, the local community, and selecting surface materials.

It's a lot. And some may even think it's conflicting – for paving to be robust enough to withstand people, change in climate, and possibly vehicular traffic, surely, looks will need to be sacrificed? Equally, to prioritise sustainability, eco-friendly products need to be affordable to purchase, and every scheme should make this a priority.

While in years gone by, these multiple objectives may have felt conflicting, that is no longer the case.

Manufacturers of hard landscaping solutions are evolving to meet the demands placed upon the industry and to support landscape architects and contractors in finding the balance. As more regeneration takes place, to provide a lasting legacy it is critical that the entire design, product manufacture and installation of a project, down to the humblest flagstone, is given due care and thought when being specified.

Complementary tones

When approaching any type of public realm scheme, it is key to understand the specific goals of the project. Whether that be creating engaging and safe areas to encourage increased utilisation or improved wellbeing, or bringing nature into the urban environment, the hard landscaping materials selected must marry the physical needs of the project with the aesthetics required to complement and elevate the spaces in which they feature.



Brightwells Yard in Farnham, delivered by Crest Nicholson, is a prime example of this being done well. Revitalising a tired town square was key to attracting visitors, and the paving played a central role. This is where Charcon's Stonefleck and UrbanPave block paving made a positive impact, chosen by the Crest Nicholson's landscape architects, Murdoch Wickham, and contractors De-Ath Bros.

The resulting finish was a blend of different pavers in a mosaic-like pattern, using various grey tones and hues to ensure the paved areas matched Brightwells Yard's traditional surroundings whilst delivering a modern look and feel to the overall project.

Sustainable in nature, sustainable in practice

The adoption of 'net zero city' strategies is already being widely accepted, and up and down the country, positive strides are being made – notably, some councils already have target dates in mind to make this ambition a reality. As reducing carbon in urban landscaping becomes progressively urgent, landscape architects must prioritise materials meeting the sustainability requirements laid out for each project.

Coming back to the Brightyards Well development, the UrbanPave range was selected partly because of its green credentials. The paver is manufactured using Aqua-etching technology, which provides a more subtle texture than traditional shot-blasting methods. The fines created and water used in this process are recycled and used again on site in a closed system.

Considerations must also be made around how urban landscaping products will perform in helping to manage the effects of climate change. With increasingly erratic weather patterns like spells of drought followed by heavy downpours, it's imperative that products forming the urban terrain do not

contribute towards flooding, but instead, help to mitigate the issue.

Permeable paving has a significant part to play here and as



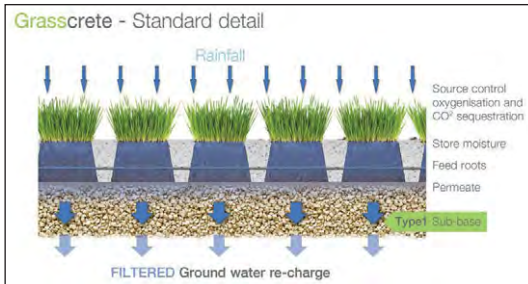
an industry more focus and regulation is being given to this topic, with the MPA Precast and its members leading the Paving Adoption Task Group. By designing sites with pavers that can allow surface water to permeate through, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are supported. Charcon's Stonefleck Infiltra paving is a prime example of this. The modular pavers combine functionality with resilience, helping to control the volume and rate of surface water that enters sewers and watercourses. Alongside this, the paver itself is positioned to be accessible, demonstrating that being eco-conscious need not be at the expense of higher outlay.

Early collaboration is the key

With so much to balance and consider, it's critical that those with the remit for new public-streetscapes consult with manufacturers to ensure the right solutions are found for their scheme.

To help urban landscapers, Charcon operates a Design Partner program and offers architectural and design solutions to develop and provide sustainable building materials leveraging the investment and expertise across the Holcim group through supply chain and product innovation.

With the right materials, collaborative vision, and a commitment to sustainability, public spaces can be both high-performing and high-impact.



GRASSCRETE always the smart choice when compared to Block Paving

With increased demand for permeable paving to address issues of SUDS, many driveways, access roads and car parks are now adopting grass paving alternatives.

With more than 50 years of grass paving installations, the **Grass Concrete** policy is to guide clients to the most appropriate system: in-situ-concrete, pre-cast concrete or plastic systems. This strict fit for purpose policy is the key to achieving sustainability in any construction project, with careful consideration of grass paving types, particularly when likely to be subjected to frequent traffic and weights of vehicles.

Incorporating SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage system) using grass permeable

paving helps mitigate the implications of surface water run-off and its implications for the local storm water network.

It's not simply about getting water from A to B, it is about what you do with it along the way. Smart Permeability, using source control to manage the rate of permeability both mitigates downstream impact and provides essential root nourishment for grass coverage.

Sustainable grass cover is best achieved by a system that promotes permeability. The depth and shape of the soil pockets can have a critical part to play. Both GRASSCRETE and Grassblock offer substantial capacity for soils and root systems to promote maximum grass coverage.

A grass reinforced system can permeate at up to 90% the rate of natural grass a safe lag time can be achieved. Storing water within the system with low risk of ponding, until the ground can naturally re-charge is a significant benefit.

Lag time is beneficial in the prevention of flooding and can be extended by introducing an underlying drainage blanket across the full extent of the paved area. The drainage blanket can be used to either attenuate permeation to the water table or be a vehicle for rainwater harvesting.



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shaping the visitor *experience*

HiiLIFE highlights how leisure venues are using technology in architecture to redefine the customer experience and explains why the right technology partner matters in modern leisure spaces...

For architects, designers and developers, the role of technology in leisure environments has shifted from background utility to a central driver of the experience. Lighting, sound, interactivity, and digital media now define how visitors engage with a space and whether they choose to return. Delivering these elements seamlessly demands more than just creative vision – it requires a technology partner that integrates complex systems into a cohesive, reliable project.

From concept to reality

Customers now want to spend their money on experiences that feel new and go the extra mile. To meet that end, venues should look to provide elements that feel immersive and add a point of difference to their offering. Audio-visual systems, responsive lighting and interactive features can turn a standard activity space into an immersive visitor experience.

Achieving this effect requires every element to be specified and installed so it works as part of a single, seamless system. The technology partner's role is to translate the creative brief into a fully operational environment that brings the vision to life.

A well-integrated approach also offers operators greater flexibility. Venues can adapt for different audiences or events, updating lighting, sound, and visual content instantly, often without needing to make physical alterations to the space.

Case in point: Oxygen Activeplay, Manchester

At Oxygen Activeplay, HiiLIFE and the ZYNK design team were tasked with creating an immersive trampoline and activity park that takes visitors through a series of themed environments and sensory identities.



The venue has a dedicated 'Laundry World' and 'Lemon World', both of which have tailored lighting colourways, bespoke soundscapes, and responsive features. These include ripple-effect floors, haze and fog effects, and three-dimensional light installations that build a sense of discovery in every area. HiiLIFE also installed hidden screens that display varied content depending on the zone, while exterior-facing screens share glimpses of the activity to shoppers outside.

The priority for HiiLIFE was to integrate these elements into a coherent, controllable system that transformed a vision into an adaptable, commercially effective reality for Oxygen. By using zoned AV and lighting systems, venues can adjust spaces quickly, from high-energy children's sessions to calmer, adult-focused events.

Technology as part of the environment

The façade of a retail and leisure outlet can play a vital role in attracting footfall. As well as enhancing the consumer experience, hospitality curators should look to use technology that captivates both planned and impulse visitors.

While technology has become essential for creating aesthetically appealing designs in the activation areas of hospitality venues, it also enhances other commercially viable spaces. These might include installing privately booked party rooms with their own display screens, café areas that feature digital menu boards, and in-built security screens. Improving the quality of such areas

can facilitate more income generation by levelling up the overall customer experience.

Why the delivery partner matters

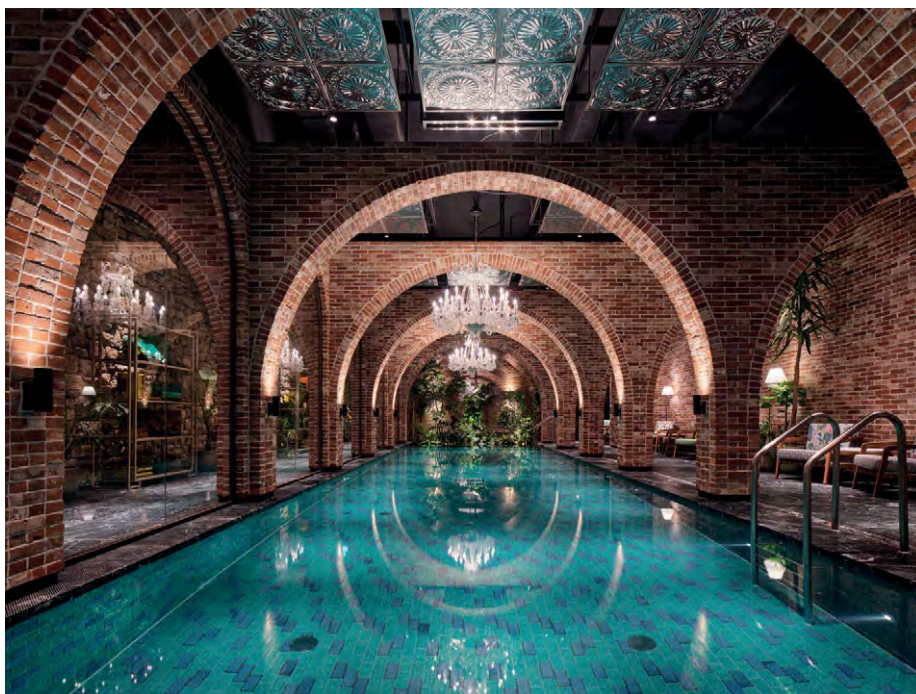
The difference between simply having a strong idea for a hospitality venue and successfully bringing that vision to life often lies in the quality of the delivery partner. The challenge is not simply to install themed lighting or interactive floors, but to ensure that dozens of different systems operate together without conflict, day after day.

For instance, at Oxygen Activeplay, HiiLIFE needed to deliver the concept within a tight timeframe, drawing on the team's expertise in integrating AV, lighting, interactive media and safety systems into a single operational framework.

A model for the future

The MediaCity project reflects a broader trend in leisure design: technology is no longer an add-on, but a core part of the concept. For operators, integrated systems deliver flexibility, marketing reach and an enhanced visitor experience. For designers and architects, they open creative possibilities that would be impossible without reliable integration.

As leisure venues continue to evolve, projects that align creative design with integrated technology that meets operational demands are likely to set the industry's standards. Skilled, dependable delivery partners and suppliers play a huge role in this, shaping the visitor's experience in the foreground.



Specialist Solutions for Wet Indoor Areas

When designing indoor projects, it's important to consider the internal environment so that the materials specified and installed meet key requirements, particularly in high-moisture environments like swimming pools or high humidity areas such as wet rooms or saunas.

Exposure to constant humidity, water and in some settings, chlorine can compromise structural integrity, lead to mould growth and escalate maintenance costs. Designers and specifiers are tasked with overcoming these issues while adhering to strict building regulations and ensuring long-term performance.

The Challenge

Designing and building spaces that are consistently exposed to water and humidity requires materials that resist degradation and maintain structural integrity over time.

Traditional construction materials like gypsum boards or wood often struggle in these environments, with problems such as swelling, warping and mould growth affecting the building's durability and posing significant health risks. Settings such as swimming pools can worsen

these challenges due to their large-scale exposure to water, humidity and chlorine.

Addressing these challenges while remaining compliant with industry standards is critical for ensuring well-functioning facilities.

Meeting Regulations

There are standards in the UK that products must meet to ensure that materials used in wet environments, such as swimming pools and saunas, perform reliably and are safe, durable and compliant with best practices. These include:

- EN 13501-1:2018 provides the reaction to fire classification procedure for all construction products, including products incorporated within building elements (except for power, control and communication cables, which are covered by EN 13501-6). The parameters of the standard evaluate ignitability, flame spread, heat release, smoke production and propensity for producing flaming droplets or particles.
- EN 12467:2012+A2:2018 specifies the performance requirements and test methods for fibre-cement flat sheets, including resistance to bending, frost

and moisture. Compliance with this standard ensures durability in challenging conditions.

Knauf AQUAPANEL®

Knauf's AQUAPANEL® Cement Board Indoor is compliant with EN 13501-1 and EN 12467. It provides a durable solution, that is unaffected by water, designed to withstand high-moisture conditions.

During EN 13501-1 tests the specialist board achieved A1 fire classification, which means it is completely non-combustible. The board also has high resistance to impact and wear. Its lightweight design (11kg/m²) makes it easy to handle and install, reducing structural load while maintaining high robustness.

The versatility of Knauf AQUAPANEL® Cement Board Indoor also allows for curved designs due to its maximum bending radius of 1m and can support heavy tiling, up to 50kg/m² with standard methods or 120kg/m² with specific build-ups.

The score-and-snap cutting method simplifies installation, eliminating pre-drilling and reducing dust on site. Additionally, its 12.5mm thickness makes it easy to align with UK plasterboards, removing the need for packers and streamlining transitions.

The board is made from inorganic materials – chemical compounds that contain no carbon – and is not affected by water. Unlike gypsum boards or wood, it does not swell, deteriorate or lose integrity when exposed to moisture, making it ideal for wet rooms and swimming pools. It is also resistant to mould growth, which ensures hygiene and health in damp environments.

Available Nationwide

Knauf AQUAPANEL® is available from Nevill Long Interior Systems – a specialist distribution division of The Encon Group, the UK's leading independent distributor of building materials and interior solutions. Our experienced teams support customers at every stage of the design and installation process and our national branch network ensures the right solutions are delivered for your interior and fit-out projects, on time and as specified.

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Invisible door automation brings seamless access to London café

Discreetly integrated into the entrance of Acai Berry café in London's busy SW1 district, a **TORMAX iMotion** 1401 underfloor door operator ensures effortless, hands-free access for all visitors.

Offering invisible automation, this innovative swing door solution provides a neat, contemporary appearance that complements

the café's modern design, while delivering the reliable performance demanded in such a high-footfall location.

With the mechanism concealed entirely beneath the floor, the entrance maintains an uncluttered aesthetic, free from bulky overhead drive units, and is engineered for durability with minimal ongoing maintenance requirements.

Acai Berry is a growing café brand known for its vibrant, health-focused menus built around the nutritional power of açai berries. The SW1 café offers a welcoming space for customers to enjoy bowls, smoothies, and fresh juices, all focused on natural ingredients and wellness. With a reputation for creating spaces that are both stylish and accessible, the TORMAX automated entrance ensures inclusivity for all visitors.

sales@tormax.co.uk www.tormax.co.uk

Gilberts helps "The Best Spa Hotel in UK" expansion

The Crow Wood Hotel & Spa Resort – winner of the Best UK Hotel spa award 2024 – is taking its visitor experiences to the next level, with contribution from **Gilberts Blackpool**.

The globally renowned venue has invested £16m in a new thermal experience – the Woodland Spa – set within the facility's 100-acre grounds in the heart of Lancashire.

To confidently create the perfect atmosphere in each area, addressing the specific ambient conditions required, Petit Singleton Associates utilised the expertise of Gilberts Blackpool to supply the air movement supply and extract.

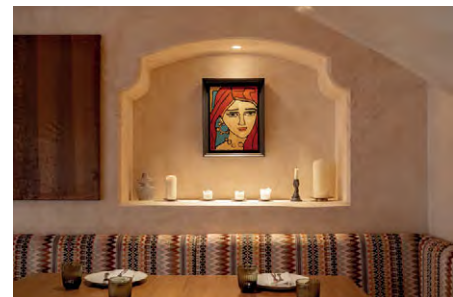
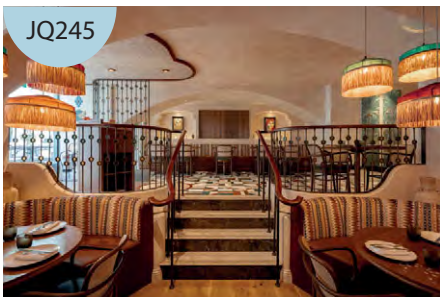
For ventilation within the internal spaces, Gilberts worked closely with PSA to develop a scheme that predominantly uses a combination of Gilberts' contemporary-styled louvre faced ceiling diffusers (DGA, four-way blow configuration), linear slot diffusers (GSLs) and high-capacity slot diffusers (HSLs), with separate units for supply and extract. To complement the clean, modern décor, all were finished in either pure white with a 20% gloss finish or matt traffic white. And to ensure the air handling equipment with heat recovery connected to air source heat pumps all functions at optimum efficiency, constantly, Gilberts' plant ventilation louvres in anthracite grey have been incorporated into the first- and second-floor facades.

<https://gilbertsblackpool.com/>



JQ244

JQ245



Blending brand and space: DLSM Studio shapes Noreen's first UK restaurant in Central London

DLSM Studio, the multidisciplinary interior design and branding agency, formerly known as DesignLSM, recently unveiled Noreen; a bold and evocative new restaurant located in the heart of St Christopher's Place, London. Set within a 2,900ft² Grade II listed former retail space, Noreen is a celebration of cultural vibrancy and contemporary dining. Inspired by the name 'Noreen' – nor meaning light and een meaning two in Arabic – the space explores light from a dual perspective of source and effect, playing with texture, shadow and colour.

DLSM Studio delivered both the branding and interior design for Noreen, crafting a refined, Arabian-inspired space that blends traditional craftsmanship with contemporary elegance. Original low arches throughout the restaurant have created intimate alcoves within which diners can enjoy their meal. Finished in stucco plaster, the walls are layered with bespoke hand-painted delicate floral murals that add depth and cultural richness.

The floors are lined with intriguing bespoke marble and terrazzo tiles, with the restaurant's name proudly engrained into the finish. Natural materials, including

ceiling rafts woven with palm leaves imported from Bahrain and a brass-and-stained-glass balustrade inspired by traditional Middle Eastern building methods, add authenticity and visual intrigue.

A Beyond its striking design, Noreen promises an immersive guest experience that captures the spirit and soul of Middle Eastern hospitality. Guests are invited to embark on a sensory journey through evocative flavours, aromas, and textures, with a menu that brings to life the rich culinary heritage of the region.

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JQ45

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JQ246



Cistermiser calls for urgent action to curb everyday waste

With DEFRA placing resource efficiency and water resilience at the heart of its latest policy agenda, **Cistermiser** is

warning that millions of litres of drinking water are still being lost through avoidable leaks and poor washroom practices every day.

The Department's call for responsible resource management comes against the backdrop of mounting concern over water scarcity, rising utility costs and the environmental toll of wasted resources. Industry experts warn that without rapid change, parts of the UK could face significant supply shortfalls within 20 years.

Cistermiser's Managing Director Richard Braid says: "DEFRA is absolutely right to elevate water efficiency alongside energy and carbon reduction. We cannot afford to treat water as limitless. From leaking toilets in schools and hospitals, to inefficient washroom systems in offices and public spaces, the scale of waste is staggering.

"The good news is the technology already exists to solve this problem – and to do so quickly. At Cistermiser we see it as our role to turn Government policy into everyday reality by giving building owners and facilities managers the tools to manage water responsibly, cut costs and support national sustainability targets."

Cistermiser's product range, including intelligent urinal controls and leak prevention technologies, is already helping estates across the UK tackle unnecessary consumption.

www.cistermiser.co.uk

AkzoNobel expands Interpon D Anodic range

Due to overwhelming demand from architects and designers, **AkzoNobel** has expanded its hugely popular superdurable

Interpon D2525 Anodic powder coatings collection. Now available in a total of 18 striking shades, the range delivers the sleek look of anodized aluminum – with all the sustainability and durability benefits of a powder coating.

Not only does the Anodic collection deliver the dynamic look of anodized aluminum – it also incorporates Interpon's Low-E technology, supporting sustainability goals across the architectural supply chain in one of two ways: curing at a lower temperature (30°C lower than traditional powder coatings); or curing at a faster line speed. In both cases, the range helps to reduce the total energy consumed, lowering carbon emissions, and enhancing production line efficiencies while still delivering optimized performance.

The latest additions introduce bold, on-trend tones of bronze, red, and brown, perfectly complementing the established palette of black, silver, and gold. With a mix of matt and metallic-effect finishes, it offers greater design flexibility, more consistent results than traditional anodizing and less potential environmental impact or high costs.

www.interpon.com/insights/interpon-d-anodic-expansion

JQ247



ISO Chemie's Winframer passes the test

ISO Chemie's thermal insulating and load bearing bracket support system has been put to the (weight) test – and passed with flying colours.

In an onsite construction challenge, a new WINFRAMER window installation was loaded with 120kg over 900mm and did not shift an inch – it can take at least 200kg/m – to confirm to sceptical customers that the product can easily withstand heavy load bearings.

The composite WINFRAMER brackets can bear heavy window loads, including bi-fold doors, to provide a reliable, strong and high-performance support frame. Installation is quick with windows attached directly and secured mechanically using either standard fixing screws or fixing lugs in the usual manner.

A hinged insulation core combines with the composite structural bracket to become an integral part of the overall wall structure, providing compliance with Building Energy Act requirements and the RAL quality assurance association.

ISO-Chemie is one of Europe's main producers of impregnated foam sealants.

www.iso-chemie.eu/en-GB/home

JQ248

A wider cavity allows for 'fast and painless' installation

Widening wall cavities by just 25mm allowed Inox Construction to choose insulation that delivered thermal performance with a 'fast and painless' installation.

While delivering a large extension project on a 1950s semi-detached house, Inox Construction made the decision to switch from using rigid PIR board insulation in a 125mm cavity, to Knauf Insulation's DriTherm® Cavity Slab 32 in a 150mm cavity.

It was important that the finished extension felt cohesive with the original design, but the team also wanted flexibility to try different insulants. "It was simpler to tie the courses in using a 150mm cavity and we wanted to use an insulation material that was less time consuming to install and achieved more consistent results", explained Andy Davies, Director of Inox Construction.

Widening the cavity by just 25mm and using DriTherm® Cavity Slab 32, allowed them to achieve a wall U-value of 0.17W/m²K, with a product that was also non-combustible and lower in embodied carbon.

Andy commented, "We found that using mineral wool in a 150mm cavity was significantly faster than using boards... You lose so much time installing boards correctly, whereas it was painless to achieve a snug fit with the DriTherm® Cavity Slabs."

Read the full case study at <https://bit.ly/Northwichcasestudy>



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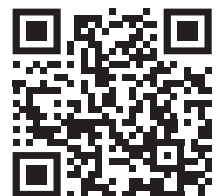
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